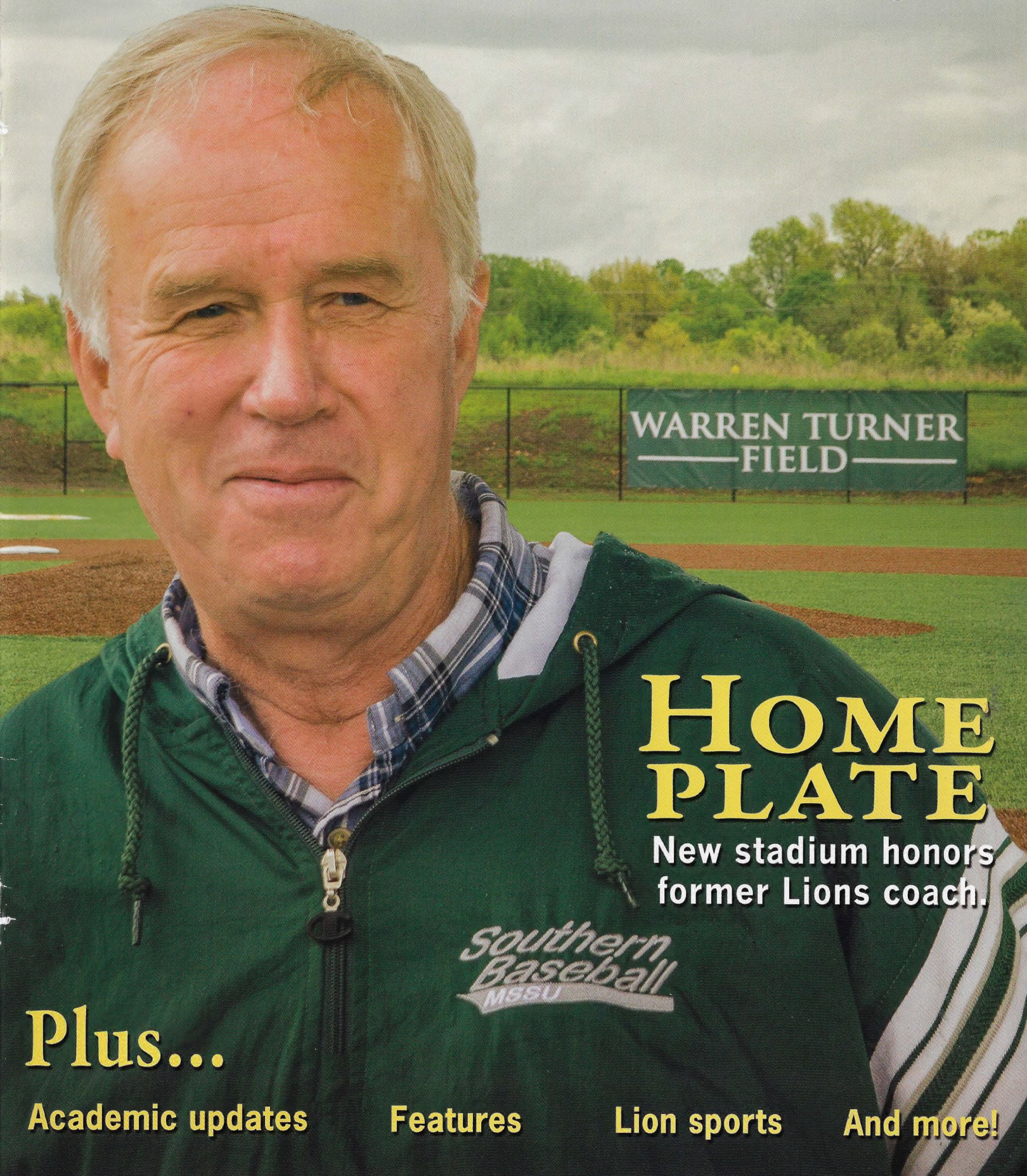


# crossroads

MSSU Alumni Publication Spring 2015



## HOME PLATE

New stadium honors  
former Lions coach.

Plus...

Academic updates

Features

Lion sports

And more!



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## on the cover

Warren Turner, Missouri Southern head baseball coach from 1977-2007, visited campus on April 18 when the field at the new baseball stadium was named in his honor during the dedication ceremony. For more, please turn to Page 21. Cover illustration by Taylor Kubicek, '15; photo by Levi Andrew, '16.



Greetings,

I am extremely fortunate, completely humbled and very proud to be referred to as the "leader" of Missouri Southern State University.



But, there is a basic and much more important mission I hope to fulfill for faculty, staff, students and alumni: to serve as the "first follower." Perhaps more descriptively, it's a commitment to empower the people who make this organization so great by standing behind them with rock-solid support.

I am reminded of this fundamental tenet every time I learn of an employee idea that will clearly make a difference, a student who has achieved something great, and at each commencement when I look into the eyes of our graduates and see the pride, hope and optimism that launches them toward such a bright future.

Missouri Southern is an amazing place for me to follow because it is truly becoming a highly respected and widely recognized leader.

From our emerging master's degree programs and new academic offerings to our renewed focus on alumni and the cohesiveness of our mission, I see progress all around. We are always working to offer our students more and to anticipate the future needs of the university and region.

Often, I have heard, "What makes Missouri Southern unique and what will distinguish us from our peers as we move into the future?"

Missouri Southern is an irreplaceable force in the Joplin region. It is constantly refining offerings to be centered on student and alumni success. While we proudly preserve our history and legacy, we are not interested in being constrained by the past.

We are focused on moving forward.

So what do we need to do now? We must support economic development by continuing to create programs needed to develop the talents and skills of current and future employees. We must build on our base of liberal arts to develop future leaders who care about civic engagement, critical thinking and individual responsibility within the greater context of community. We must reinforce and expand our commitment to the international component of our mission to ensure that our graduates are equipped to compete in an interconnected world. We must create a campus atmosphere of innovation and discovery.

We must continue to insist that our athletic programs are competitive and produce student-athletes who are as successful in the classroom as they are on the field or court. We must build deeper connections with our constituents and patrons — for they make opportunities available to our students that would otherwise be impossible to provide. We must constantly elevate our expectations in every aspect of our work.

Following with Lion Pride,

*Alan D. Marble*

Alan Marble, '79, Ph.D.  
MSSU President

Special  
Collections  
MSSU



## DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Dear alumni and friends,

What a great day to be a LION! It seems like we were saying, texting and tweeting that a lot this spring. The Alumni Association was busy this past year with exciting events.



Legacy Day featured a carnival theme for children of alumni. For the 17th straight year, this event gave our legacies a chance to visit Missouri Southern and be a Lion.

The Christmas season began with our first Boutique Bonanza. The Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center was filled with local boutiques offering unique gifts. We also held the annual Child Development Center Christmas party. Children enjoyed cookies and milk with Santa and made fun crafts.

In the spring, we had great success with the inaugural Southern Social. This event started a women's circle of giving, which included a prize for best table theme, a silent auction, and a dinner and fashion show. Proceeds benefited the Alumni Association Scholarship Fund.

Dress for Success, co-sponsored by Career Services, helped over 187 students "shop" for gently used professional clothing that was donated by alumni and friends so our students could be prepared for the business world.

Again, let me say, every day is a great day to be a LION!

In Lion Pride,

Lee Elliff Pound, '86,  
Alumni Director



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### STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

**crossroads** magazine is the official alumni publication of the Missouri Southern State University Alumni Association. The mission is to serve its readers by providing information of interest about the University, its alumni and the Alumni Association and by acting as a channel for Missouri Southern alumni as a "connection for life" with the University.

**crossroads** magazine is published two times a year by the Missouri Southern State University Alumni Association and the Department of Communication. It is mailed to current MSSU Alumni Association members and friends of the University. A select number of copies are distributed on campus each semester.

**crossroads** is written and designed by faculty, staff, students and alumni. The views expressed do not represent the student body, faculty, staff, administration or Missouri Southern State University.

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Find us online at:  
[www.mssu.edu/crossroads](http://www.mssu.edu/crossroads)

Greetings, alumni and friends!

This is a bittersweet issue for the staff, as we prepare for new and exciting changes.

In the fall, **crossroads** will transition to University Relations and Marketing. While we are sad to see the magazine leave the communication department, we are anxious to see the transformation of this award-winning publication, which has been a part of Lion history since 1939.

Students have once again generated some fabulous alumni content for this spring. We welcome you to enjoy these stories, which will give you a fresh look at what's new and nostalgic about your alma mater.

As for the students, they have a new project for fall, so be sure to stay in touch for this new publication. The new magazine will feature fine arts and entertainment, not only at Missouri Southern, but in the Joplin area as well.

It's been a pleasure to produce your alumni magazine since 2009. We hope you have enjoyed it. And, it's provided a tremendous learning opportunity for students to work on a professional publication.

All the best to you, and may you always have fond memories of your time as a Lion.

Warm regards,

Rhonda Clark, '00,  
**crossroads** Editor,  
Assistant Professor, Communication





# Charitable giving can be customized

As individuals consider their estate plans, often times they will decide to include a charitable donation as part of their overall plan. Gifts to charities have



several advantages from an estate planning perspective. First, and foremost, is the satisfaction of knowing that a donor has helped advance a worthwhile cause that is meaningful to them.

But, in addition, a gift to a charity will normally reduce the amount of estate tax, if the donor is subject to that tax. Also, in most instances, a charitable gift will result in a current income tax deduction. In addition, there are three types of charitable gifts which allow the donor to continue to benefit during their life from a deferred charitable gift.

The charitable gift annuity is a combination of a gift to charity and an annuity. For senior persons, annuity rates may be 6-7 percent or higher. Since part of the annuity payment is tax-free return of principal, the gift annuity may provide the donor with a very substantial income. The combination of partially tax-free income and the initial charitable deduction makes this agreement quite attractive.

The charitable unitrust is a special trust that pays income to the donor and/or family members. After all of the income payments have been completed, the remainder is distributed to the charity. The person who establishes

the trust selects the unitrust percentage for payments, the persons to receive the income from the trust, and the charity to receive the principal of the trust after all income payments are completed. The major benefits of the trust are bypass of capital gains, potential for increased income and a charitable income tax deduction.

If a person owns a home or a farm and intends to continue to live on the property for life, he or she can still receive substantial income tax savings. The tax saving is accomplished through a life estate remainder. The donor retains use of the property for life and deeds the remainder interest in the property to the charity, which will own the property after the owner passes. The life estate is accomplished by preparing a deed. In the deed, the owner may reserve the right to use the property for one or two lifetimes. The property must be appraised and the donor will receive a current income tax deduction for the present value of the remainder interest gifted to the charity.

By using one or a combination of the three estate planning tools listed above, a donor may achieve multiple advantages: lifetime benefits, tax savings (both income and estate, if applicable) and self-fulfillment from helping others. Deferred gifts to charity can truly be a win-win-win situation.

— Dr. John Tiede,

Former Director of Major Gifts and Planned Giving



The donor wall is on the third floor of the Billingsly Student Center outside the Connor Ballroom. It was dedicated in summer 2014 and honors both the Lantern Society and Legacy Society. — Photo by Ashley Eriksen, '12



# Brownes share their love of travel

When Donna Browne turned 80, her children decided to recognize her lifelong passion for travel and exploration by creating an endowed award for Missouri Southern students to study abroad. The



Donna Davis Browne Award for Study Abroad provides a \$1,000 grant every year to assist an MSSU student spending an entire semester in another country.

"Mom is the world's best traveler," daughter Becky Browne said. "She reads and reads and makes careful plans so she can enjoy every minute. She and Dad have been to more than 50 countries."

Leland and Donna Browne made their first trip abroad in 1966 to England. "That trip clinched it," Leland says. "We fell in love with travel." The Brownes eventually involved the entire family, renting a house in Provence in southeastern France for a month and later a villa in Tuscany in central Italy for a month. Donna's inspiration came from her parents, who were avid travelers and even sailed around the world on their honeymoon.

Their favorite countries have been England, France, Germany/Austria, India and Italy. Their trips often have a theme, such as music or gardens. One year, they took a driving tour of 19 magnificent English landscape gardens. Hong Kong has also been a particular favorite; they have enjoyed noticing how the city has changed over the years.

"It has been terrific to see our parents also share their love for travel abroad with their grandkids," said son Beau. "It has opened their minds and helped them mature into more worldly young men."

Donna and Leland grew up in Kansas City and met at Southwest High School. She's a Mizzou grad (political science); his alma mater is KU (engineering). They married in 1951 and shortly thereafter Leland went on active duty as an officer with the U.S. Navy Seabees. He was stationed in Guam during the Korean War and took advantage of the opportunity to visit the Philippines, Japan and Hong Kong.

After the war, they lived in Kansas City until 1962, when they moved to Joplin so that Leland could accept an opportunity to work with a fraternity brother, J.P. Humphreys, who at that time was the general manager of TAMKO. During his tenure at TAMKO, Leland was instrumental in

the development and construction of Freeman Hospital, serving as its CEO and chairman of the board from 1972-76.

Donna founded the Double Eagle gift shop on Main Street in Joplin and operated it for 22 years. Subsequent to Leland's retirement from TAMKO as its executive vice president in 1987, he and his wife intensified their activity and interest in international travel. They targeted at least two major overseas trips each year, traveling on their own and seldom as part of a group tour, thereby gaining maximum flexibility in timing and itinerary.

Students who apply for the Donna Davis Browne Award for Study Abroad are asked to interview with the couple. "We love meeting the students," she said. "They are so enthusiastic."

In December

2014, five students applied for the award.

After visiting with each one individually, the Brownes informed me that they couldn't make a decision. I suggested giving each one \$200. "We can do better than that," Leland said. They then provided

an additional \$1,500, so that each student would receive a \$500 award.

Such generosity is not uncommon for Leland and Donna. They encourage others to duplicate their efforts to provide additional study abroad scholarships to MSSU students who spend an entire semester abroad. If you are interested, please contact me at [stebbins-c@mssu.edu](mailto:stebbins-c@mssu.edu).

"The award is a good match for our mother's values and commitments because the experience of study abroad opens hearts and minds to the vitality and value of life in other places," said daughter Kate Browne, a professor of anthropology at Colorado State University. "Studying abroad can nurture a lifelong curiosity about other societies, make clear the value of cultural diversity, and enrich the understanding of our place in a very big world."

— Dr. Chad Stebbins, '82  
Director, Institute of International Studies



*Leland and Donna Browne have travelled extensively and recently established an endowment to help Missouri Southern students experience the world. — Photo by Molly Schons, '15*



# A TECH CONNECTION

## Alumni give back with CIS scholarship.

**M**any college students set goals to graduate and get on with life. They want to continue to grow, and two recent graduates are doing just that.

For Stephen Cole, '08, and Alex Vassilev, '07, one thing was obvious — their Missouri Southern education was valuable, but it was the real-world, hands-on training outside the classroom that sparked interest in both of them.

After graduation, these alumni pursued careers others aspire to attain: working for two top tech companies — eBay and Google. But it was internships they obtained as CIS majors at Southern that helped them land jobs with the popular tech companies.

After an internship at Southern, Cole found himself ready to spend the summer of 2007 in San Jose, California, as an intern at eBay.

The experience was a blast, and after the internship, eBay made him an offer for a full-time position, provided he complete his final year at Southern successfully.

"Beyond the cool Web technology, I

was very fortunate to work for and alongside great people," said Cole. "My bosses at eBay were fantastic, which gave me an appreciation for leadership and a desire to try my hand at it."

From Southern, Vassilev went to work at Google. He started as an engineer then moved to project management. He loved the fact he was able to explore different areas. As he moved within Google, he experienced quite a bit of growth.

"I loved the 20 percent time we were given. This time was for us to work on anything we wanted. It allowed me to explore areas that interested me," Vassilev said.

In 2011, Cole left eBay to join the leadership team of a cloud computing startup company. He focused on accelerated learning and the niche of technology in cloud computing. This gave him the potential for higher monetary return.

"Whatever the issue of the moment is, you just have to dig in and do it yourself, which is sometimes painful but usually results in a ton of good learning," Cole said.

Vassilev left Google to attend Harvard

Business School, where he is seeking an MBA. His goal is to continuously improve.

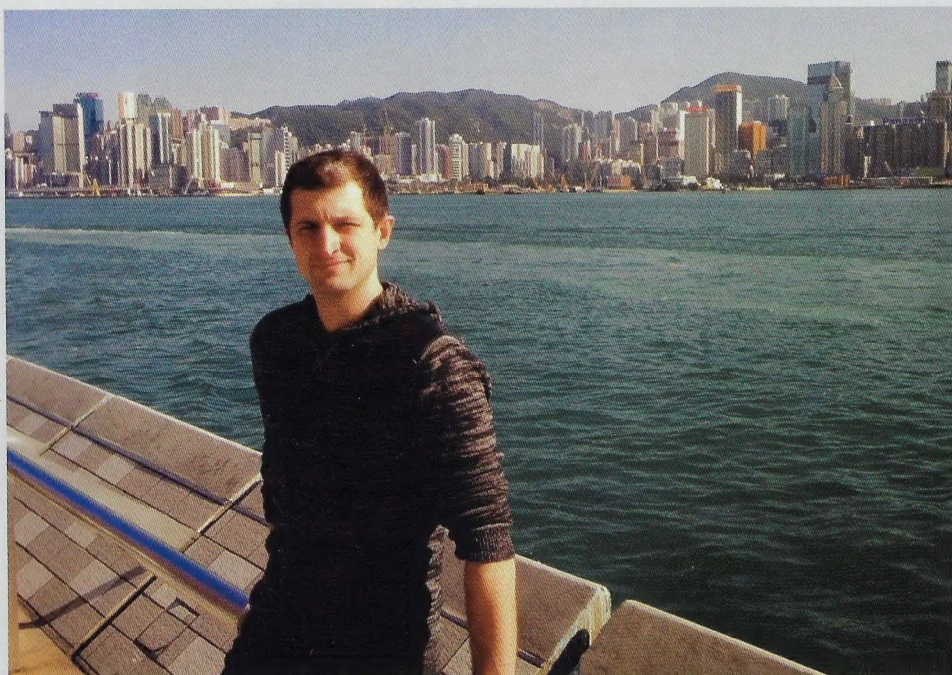
"You realize what you need in your professional life. There are so many aspects when you try to build yourself as a leader I didn't have," Vassilev said. "Obviously, the MBA is what I want to do — become more strategic in the aspect of technology."

Their success led these two computer information science graduates to partner up and give back to their alma mater by offering scholarships to Southern CIS majors.

Cole and Vassilev kept in touch with their former instructor Stephen Schiavo, professor of computer information science in Southern's Plaster School of Business. This relationship helped them sponsor the Vassilev / Cole CIS Scholarship for CIS majors at Southern.

"The more we chatted about it, the more we realized it was something we wanted to pursue," Cole said. "We made contact with MSSU via Professor Schiavo and got things rolling."





Alex Vassilev, '07, (left) went to work for Google after he graduated with a CIS degree. After several years with the company, he left to pursue an MBA at Harvard Business School. Stephen Cole, '08, (right) landed a job with eBay after he completed an internship in 2007. Cole left eBay in 2011 to join the leadership team of a cloud computing startup company. These two alums established the Vassilev/Cole CIS Scholarship in 2013 to help CIS majors at Missouri Southern. — Submitted photos

Schiavo said he talks to students about giving back to their alma mater some day.

"I'm sure I'm not the only professor who encourages students to make a contribution to their field and to their community," Schiavo said. "Perhaps they're drawn to helping others achieve what they were able to achieve."

Students applying for the \$2,000 scholarship must complete an essay. This year's topic was "What do you hope to achieve in the field of computer information science?"

"We recognized how important support is for anyone to progress," Vassilev said. "The best thing we could think of was to return the favor to students who want to achieve their goals."

Cole and Vassilev established the scholarship in 2013, and the number of es-

says submitted this year was higher.

"It makes our decision more difficult, but it makes me very happy because we see the want to learn and achieve more," Vassilev said.

Cole chose Southern because of cost and the proximity to his hometown, Neosho, Missouri. During his time on campus, Cole participated in an internship at Leggett & Platt in network security.

"I'd recommend every CIS student seriously consider an internship," said Cole. "No matter how great your courses are, nothing beats the learning of being confronted with real-world business problems and applying technology to solve them."

Vassilev came to Southern from Bulgaria "by luck and referral." A friend was

attending Southern and recommended the university based on faculty, location and education.

"I was intrigued by the Honors Program. It provided not only financial support but faculty support," Vassilev said.

At Southern, he took not only classes in CIS but also management courses to raise awareness and give a broader view in the business world.

"Being well-rounded in many areas is important for progress. I don't think I would have had awareness of things outside of CIS if I would not have taken the extra classes," Vassilev said. "It is crucial to explore different areas to find your passion. Until you find the thing that makes you tick, you should not quit looking." **C**

— Aaron Weatherford, '16

*"We recognized how important support is for anyone to progress. The best thing we could think of was to return the favor to students who want to achieve their goals."*





# From Our House to the White House

A chance encounter  
with a presidential hopeful  
leads to a career assisting  
the nation's highest office.

**I**t was a series of moments of being in the right place at the right time. As a coordinator at the Olympic Trials from 2007-08, Emily Dredd, '00, took the opportunity of a lifetime when she was asked one question.

It's not every day a future president recruits an individual who eventually ends up working at the White House. At the time, then-Senator Barack Obama attended a track meet in Oregon. After meeting Obama and his team, Dredd joined the crew to help coordinate a series of events in Portland, Oregon.

"I just happened to be there in that moment for this one-month explosion," said Dredd. "Somewhere along the way he said, 'Are you on my team now?' I said, 'Yes,' and then I sold my condo and my car — everything — and went on the road full time."

Dredd's career took off in 2008 beginning with the Obama presidential campaign. As the White House advance associate, her career eventually brought her back to Joplin and Missouri Southern.

The dedication of the rebuilt Joplin High

## EMILY DREDD

Native of North Carolina  
Majored in English at Missouri  
Southern

Attended Southern on an athletic  
scholarship for cross country  
and track and field

Spent her early career as a grant  
writer

School on October 3 involved guest speaker Vice President Joe Biden. Dredd returned to Joplin, after being away for 15 years, to assist with coordinating the event. Her job duties included making arrangements for events, whether that means handling the media, visuals, logistics or, in this case, meeting with an eagle handler for an eagle appearance during the dedication.

"I look at all of these events that I do as a dance," Dredd said. "You've got all these players with different needs, and you're just trying to make it all work as smoothly as you can. I love that part of it. That's the best, when

you can see the whole picture."

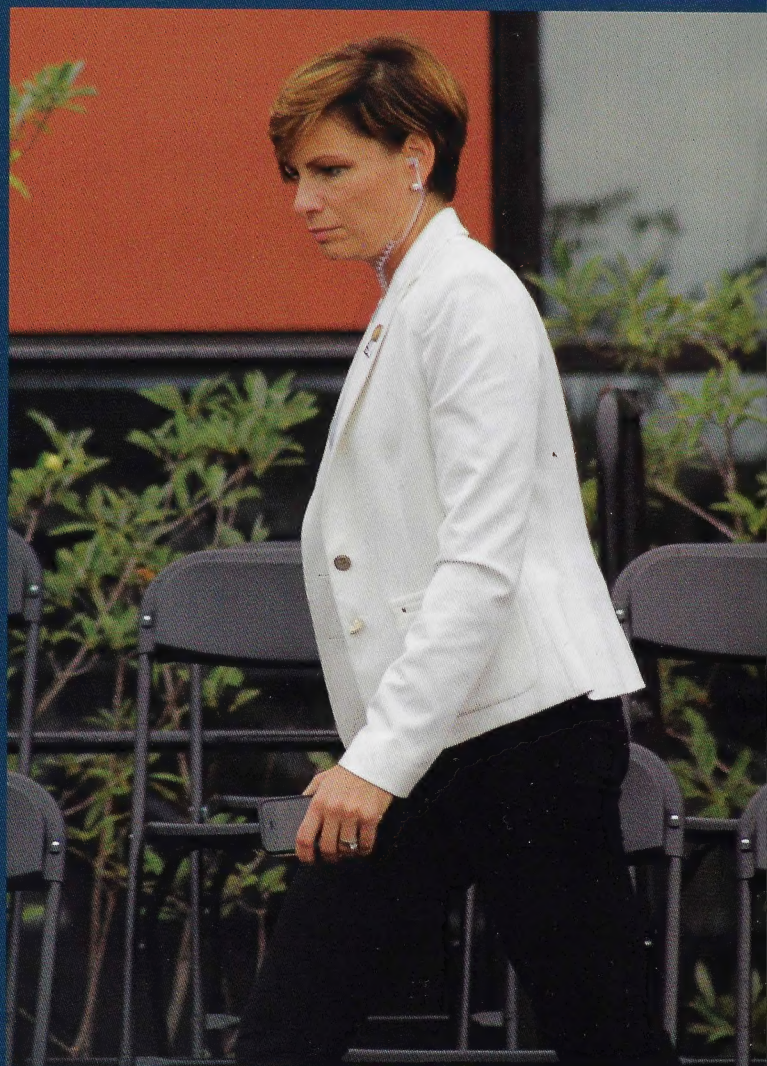
Not only did Dredd coordinate the event, she visited Southern. She said the trip back to her university was emotional as she visited her instructors, coaches and the cross country team in the locker room where she used to sit.

"It's great to reflect on where a lot of things started for me," Dredd said.

During her college experience, she worked as a student intern at the Alumni Association alongside Lee Elliff Pound, '86, alumni director.

"It was fantastic having her back on campus," said Pound. "We always consider our students as a part of the family, but Emily was one of those that you had that special mother-daughter type bond. I was so proud to be able to watch her in action at the ribbon cutting ceremony. She looked very chic and professional, handling all the issues. It was a very special day for our family."

In addition to her experience as a student intern, Dredd spent a summer studying abroad in Puebla, Mexico. Her international drive has





given her skills and experiences that continue to make a difference, even after college.

"The experience also taught me how to connect with people even when there is a language barrier," Dredd said. "In my current work, I work abroad frequently and have a short period of time to connect and coordinate political and historic events. I know my early experiences abroad helped shape my ability to quickly engage with new cultures."

One of those experiences abroad included an emotional and memorable trip to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

"I feel honored and lucky every trip," Dredd said. "I look at every trip, no matter where I am, as an opportunity to learn something new and meet someone. I feel like I return home a more whole and vibrant person with a better understanding of how I fit into the global puzzle."

During Dredd's time as the White House advance associate, she met her husband on the metro in Washington, D.C. He also worked at the White House, although they had never met.

"It was a late train, so we were all standing on the platform," Dredd said. "He said he liked my boots. And that was it."

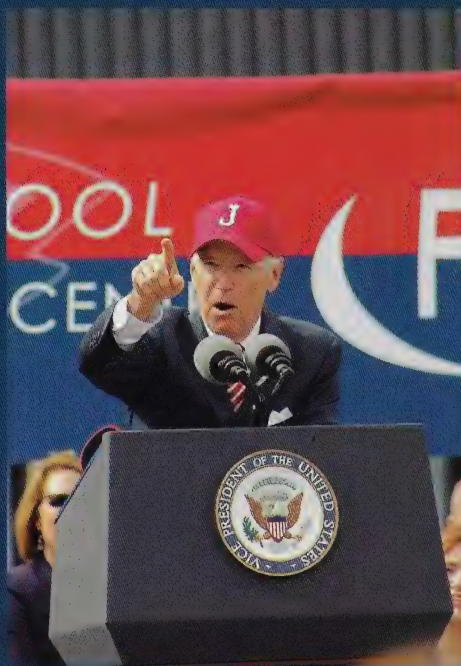
They were married in 2012 by Archbishop Desmond Tutu in Hawaii on the Island of Oahu at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.

Dredd and her husband live in Santa Monica, California, where Dredd began her own business that includes wellness consulting for leaders and businesses.

As these series of events played out, Dredd began to see her life as a whole picture.

"I feel I've done so many things in the last 15 years — academically, athletically, personally," Dredd said. "I can see where all those things have tied into what I'm doing. It makes sense."

— Molly Greer, '15



Far left, Emily Dredd, '00, prepares the stage for Vice President Joe Biden's speech on October 3 at the dedication for the rebuilt Joplin High School, which was destroyed in the May 22, 2011, tornado. Above, Dredd talks with fellow coworkers in preparation for Biden's appearance. Left, Biden welcomes students, staff and the community to the re-opened high school. At the end of his speech, Biden put on a Joplin High School baseball cap in celebration of the community and its accomplishments since the tornado, which destroyed one-third of Joplin. Below, at the re-opening, a record for the world's longest ribbon cutting was set. The 6.5-mile ribbon was adorned with the phrase "Mission Accomplished" as a celebration for the school being completed. The length symbolized the area the tornado stayed on the ground in the Joplin area.

— Photos by Molly Schons, '15

**MISSION  
ACCOMPLISHED**



**2014**  
JOPLIN SCHOOLS





*Ashley Trotnic, '12, directs students at Joplin High School as they prepare for the spring 2015 production of Legally Blonde — Photo by Molly Schons, '15*



# Continuing a tradition

## Former Joplin student has chance to return and share her passion for high school theatre.

One diploma and one degree later, Ashley Trotnic, '12, fulfilled her dream — becoming the Joplin High School theatre teacher.

As a Joplin High School student, Trotnic found a passion for theatre. She was the costume chief for the theatre department in 2006, and Trotnic's crew was having trouble finding an elaborate Victorian ball gown in the right size to rent for their production of *Hello, Dolly!*

With only a couple of weeks left before opening night, Trotnic constructed the dress herself. With the rest of the costumes needing to be finished, then-Joplin theatre director Bonnie "BC" Schurman admitted her concern about the situation.

"I was a little nervous about it because she had just started taking sewing classes," Schurman said. "But a couple days before we opened, Dolly Levi came down the stairs in 'that dress.' It took my breath away. It was absolutely perfect and completely created by Ashley. I was so proud of her."

Trotnic, Joplin High School and Missouri Southern alum, took the place of her mentor and is in her second year of teaching theatre for Joplin. After graduating with the Joplin class of 2007, she pursued a passion and began a degree in theatre education at Southern.

"I only wanted to be a theatre teacher here (at Joplin High School) because I felt more of a connection," said Trotnic.

After discovering the theatre posi-

### ASHLEY TROTNIC FAVORITES

#### Playwright

Lillian Hellman

#### Play she performed in

*Communion*, written by Tim Klein,  
MSSU professor of theatre

#### Roles performed at JHS

Anne Frank in *The Diary of Anne Frank* and Mrs. Meers in  
*Thoroughly Modern Millie*

tion at Joplin wouldn't be open for a few more years, she soon switched to a theatre performance degree at Southern. In 2013, the position for the Joplin theatre teacher opened, and Trotnic jumped into the new role. In order to begin teaching immediately, Trotnic began the Master of Arts in Teaching through the collaboration of Southern and Missouri State University. She received a Master of Education in spring 2015.

Schurman compelled Trotnic to continue theatre traditions from her experience at Joplin. With further knowledge and training in the theatre department at Southern, Trotnic was able to find motivation to continue to spark passion in the youth of the Joplin community.


"BC really changed my life," said Trotnic. "She inspired me, and I wanted to be able to do that for other students. I wanted to make sure the theatre department here

was the way it was when I was in high school and that everybody was having the same opportunities."

Schurman believes Trotnic is the perfect fit for the position.

"The thing that truly divides Ashley from others is her passion," Schurman said. "She loves theatre, all aspects of theatre. And that passion for her area will be shared with her students. A teacher can learn everything there is to learn about their subject, but you can't teach passion. And Ashley has that special gift."

Trotnic has enjoyed her experience as the JHS theatre teacher through witnessing the diligent work of her students on stage and backstage. She is living her dream and inspiring young individuals the way she was inspired as a student in high school.

"Ashley understands the rich tradition of JHS theatre because she was part of creating that tradition," Schurman said. "The most important thing that will help her succeed is she understands how important theatre is to theatre kids. She understands how they become 'one big family.' She understands how they gain self-confidence and find purpose through theatre. She understands how theatre provides focus and motivation for students who may not have found themselves yet. She understands because she was one of those students who got involved in theatre for the fun and ended up finding their passion." 

— Molly Greer, '15



Rachel Stanley, '05, and Jimmy Noriega, '05, reunite at the Missouri Southern Theatre Department reunion dinner on October 4, 2014. — Photo by Molly Greer, '15



# The people they became

Old friends gather to reminisce & create new theatre memories.

It was the motivation of working alongside a friend that drove her to accept an invitation. After declining a request from Dr. Jim Lile, chair of the Missouri Southern Theatre Department, Rachel Stanley, '05, agreed to offer a short reading at the theatre reunion dinner on October 4, 2014.

Stanley's friend from college, Jimmy Noriega, '05, told Stanley he would attend and they could perform something from the past.

"The idea of this was so exciting," Stanley told the reunion group, seconds before her performance. "And then Jimmy said, 'No, I can't.' So I said, 'OK. I'll figure something out.'"

Laughter filled the room as Stanley turned to Noriega.

"And look who's here," she said.

Stanley began to describe the piece while bringing the alumni back — back where they performed together, where memories were created. She stopped as her voice cracked, faulting her emotions on a chemical reaction that couldn't be helped.

"I think it's the ticket to describe how we feel about the people that we became while we were here," Stanley said.

The audience was reserved and then responded with applause as Stanley finished her short reading from the movie *Sideways*.

The reunion, sponsored by the Missouri Southern Alumni Association, gave former students an opportunity to return to campus and catch up with classmates and faculty.

"Mostly it's about dinner and reminiscing," said Lile. "We just haven't seen each other in a while, and it was a good chance to get together, have some memories and tell some stories."

After receiving her Bachelor of Arts in Theatre, Stanley attended graduate school at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, where she received a Master of Arts in Theatre History. She is Southern's assistant director of the Honors Program.

Noriega attended Cornell after Southern, where he received his master's and Ph.D. in theatre. He teaches and directs theatre at the College of Wooster in Ohio. Noriega has worked on 30 plays since his time at Southern.

"One of my favorite things is that I was allowed to direct my own plays here," Noriega said. "So it gave me the confidence to be able to do that after I left."

Experiences at Southern gave students lasting skills and is one reason the reunion was special for alumni. Jade Nicholas, '09, enjoyed seeing old friends.

"I had it on my calendar for like two months, so I was excited about it," said Nicholas. "My favorite part is that you get that awesome community and close-knit family." **C**

— Molly Greer, '15





## Campus dedicates The Chart Hall of Fame area.

When Richard Massa cut the ribbon to dedicate The Chart Hall of Fame on November 21, the student newspaper also celebrated its 75th anniversary.

Members of the Board of Governors at Missouri Southern State University attended the ceremony in the newly decorated atrium on the third floor of Webster Hall at the conclusion of their regular meeting. Current and former staff members were also in attendance.

Massa, who served as adviser to *The Chart* from 1972-84 and also established the department of communication in 1980, purchased several plaques and new furnishings for the hall of fame area that serves as a student lounge. A display case features *Chart* memorabilia, including Kenneth McCaleb's typewriter that may have been used to produce the first issue of *The Chart* at Joplin Junior College on November 10, 1939.

Rick Rogers, '98, editor-in-chief of *The Chart* in 1996-97, flew in from Dallas for the dedication. He spoke about how the newspaper impacted the lives of so many of its students.

"It is a wonderful tribute to the men and women who worked on *The Chart*, to now have a place where their achievements can be honored and seen by the faculty and students in Webster Hall," said Rogers, regional general manager for GateHouse Media Southwest. "It is the hope of *The Chart* alumni that the current and future students of MSSU will be inspired by the history and achievement of *The Chart* and be encouraged to sign up to work on the staff and start an exciting career in journalism."

Dr. Chad Stebbins, *Chart* adviser from 1984-99, gave a history of the newspaper

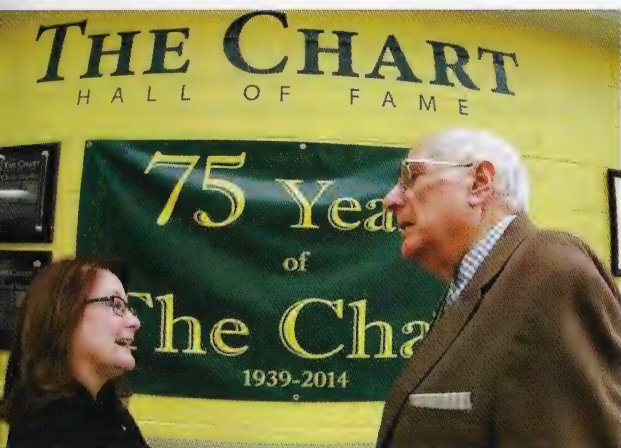
and some of the more famous editors from the past 75 years at the Board of Governors meeting. He said *Chart* alumni included Ron Martin (1956-57), who went on to become the executive editor of *USA Today* and the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, and Pam Johnson (1965-67), who later was managing editor of *The Arizona Republic* and *The Phoenix Gazette*.

The *Chart* Hall of Fame inducted four members into its inaugural class in 2012: McCaleb, who founded and named the newspaper; Cleetis Headlee, adviser from 1948-67; Jack

Brannan, sports editor in 1953-54 who went on to a long career with United Press International; and Massa.

A new class will be inducted in the fall of 2017, in conjunction with a *Chart* reunion and MSSU homecoming.

— From staff reports



Top, Richard Massa, former adviser to *The Chart* and member of the Hall of Fame, addresses those in attendance at the dedication on November 21 in Webster Hall. Left, Kelly Wilson, '83, Missouri Southern director of ACTS and former member of *The Chart*, talks with Massa after the dedication ceremony. Right, Rick Rogers, '98, former editor of *The Chart*, talks about the importance of the publication to students. — Photos by Kjersti McDonald, '15, and Curtis Almeter, '13





# Team player



Kelly O'Toole, '08, sits with an 8-year-old client in February at Children's Therapy T.E.A.M. in Fayetteville, Arkansas. — Submitted photo

## Children with special needs help alumna to focus on life's blessings.

It is often said that working with kids with disabilities takes a special person, and Kelly O'Toole, '08, is one of those people. O'Toole works for the Children's Therapy T.E.A.M. in Fayetteville, Arkansas. This program provides care for children with special needs in the form of physical, occupational, speech and developmental therapy.

"My job looks different each day, depending on which kids I see and what they are working on," O'Toole said. "I treat kids with a variety of diagnoses such as Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, premature birth, autism, other medical diagnoses, and kids with general developmental delays. We work on skills that will improve success and independence with daily life activities."

O'Toole, who graduated with a bachelor's in health promotion and wellness, became interested in occupational therapy and working with students with disabilities during the summer before her final year as a student at Missouri Southern. She worked at a day camp for children with disabilities.

"They were so much fun to be around," O'Toole said. "They showed me what perseverance and a positive attitude can do."

She continued her education at Rockhurst University and earned a master's in

occupational therapy in 2011.

At Southern, O'Toole was a member of the women's cross country and track and field teams.

"She was a young lady of outstanding character and a great leader and always found a way to support and lead the team even when she was hurt and unable to compete," said Patty Vavra, '80, cross country / track and field head coach.

O'Toole graduated at the top of her class and was part of the triple crown 2007 cross country and 2008 track and field championship teams. While a student, O'Toole enjoyed volunteering with the Special Olympics for bowling and track and field events. She also worked with the Boys and Girls Club of Southwest Missouri at Christmastime, and her work with a child for her Adapted PE class also helped influence a desire to work with kids with disabilities. During her internship with the former St. John's Regional Medical Center, she worked with children who had various illnesses and disabilities, which influenced her occupational therapy career path.

"I love feeling like I am making a positive difference in someone's life," O'Toole said. "It is hard to express how great it is to see a child make progress in an area that

they have been struggling with; I benefit so much from my kids. Their resilience and strength are sometimes contagious, and they make me laugh every day."

Children's Therapy T.E.A.M. has a program titled TEAMworks International. Through this program, participants take three to five trips a year to Guatemala and Ukraine to assist children with special needs. They take equipment and educational materials to train the families and caretakers of orphanages so they can learn how to care for the children and give them a better quality of life.

O'Toole is on the community outreach board at Children's Therapy T.E.A.M. This initiative has developed a volunteer incentive program to recognize employees for extra work they do in the community, while encouraging them to volunteer and help more children in the northwest Arkansas area.

"They give me strength and hope," said O'Toole of the children she helps. "They have made me count my blessings. It is hard to dwell on the petty things in life or give up on something difficult when you work with children who have overcome so much more adversity in their life than most adults." **C**

— Whitney Hardy, '14





Mary Kay, '71, and Craig, '69 and '77, met while they were students on what was then the new campus of Missouri Southern State College. Craig, who studied business, says most of his classes were in Hearn Hall. — Photo by Kristen Stacey

# Lifetime of memories

They met as students and common interests filled the years.

Sometimes a relationship can blossom from a surprising situation. Craig Gold and Mary Kay Herb first caught each other's eye when Craig went on a blind double date with one of Mary Kay's friends.

Craig and Mary Kay soon became a couple and got engaged in 1969. The Golds' marriage has consisted of travel, business, development of houses and happiness. Their common interests have allowed them to experience the world, and their schooling at Missouri Southern helped them impact the lives of many students.

Craig Gold, '69 and '77, graduated with a general business degree as part of the first Missouri Southern State College graduating class in 1969. Later, he returned to Southern and received a bachelor's in education.

He enjoyed his time as a Lion.

"The classes at Southern were a lot smaller and the professors were very good in the business department," Craig said. "As I later became a business teacher, I truly believe I was able to utilize much of my education as a result of what I learned from the classes at Southern."

He continued his schooling at Pittsburg State University and received a master's in vocational education in 1987. Craig taught business for many years at Galena (Kansas)

High School, alongside his wife. He also taught for Labette Community College for several years.

Mary Kay was a member of the Delta Phi Delta Chapter at Southern. She received a bachelor's in business education with a minor in language arts in 1971, graduating magna cum laude. In 1979, Mary Kay earned her master's in vocational education at PSU. She taught business at Galena High School and did credit management for professional and retail organizations.

During their teaching careers, the couple used their skills in business to begin their design and development of homes. They purchased residential lots and supervised contractors to construct homes that implemented their floor plans and decor. Together they created and sold over 65 large-scale homes in the Joplin area.

"My husband and I were fortunate to become involved in housing projects and there is no question as to how many times we relied on our office procedures, business management, advertising, accounting and business communication classes to design, advertise and sell over 65 houses," said Mary Kay.

Craig said they also discovered something else from those business classes.

"Probably the most important things I

learned from Missouri Southern were not just the business procedures and techniques, but also the practical application of utilizing what was learned and applying it in real business situations" said Craig.

The Golds have always been able to share their common interests with each other. They believe their greatest accomplishment and joy has been their four children, two of whom chose Southern for their bachelor's degrees before completing master's degrees at Missouri State University. The Golds continue to attend many Southern events with their children and grandchildren.

The Golds possess a strong love for traveling. Together, they have traveled to more than 30 different countries. China and Greece are two of the favorite locations they have visited.

A study abroad program wasn't available when they attended Southern. The couple said opportunities for students to see the world are a wonderful addition and something they would have loved to do when they were in college.

"When my husband and I were students, there were no programs for travel being offered. We would have enjoyed that opportunity," said Mary Kay. **C**

— Bethany Courtney, '15



# Once upon a time ...

## Storybook childhood instills sense of giving back.

Memories can last a lifetime, and for Connie Billingsly Godwin, '74, some of her favorite memories as a child include exploring the Mission Hills Estate, which later became the Missouri Southern State College and now MSSU campus.

From days spent at the old Barn Theatre silo to collecting pinecones behind the mansion, she viewed the land that would become the campus as her playground. She often filled her time by swimming in the pond and taking walks behind Juanita Wallower's mansion.

"I felt like I lived a fairy-tale childhood playing on the Mission Hills Estate," she said.

Growing up, Godwin saw firsthand the passion and dedication her parents put into cultivating the college.

Her father, the late Dr. Leon C. Billingsly, was the first president at Missouri Southern State College from 1964-78, after serving as dean and then president of Joplin Junior College beginning in 1961. The late Sue Billingsly, her mother, was the first director of the Missouri Southern Foundation, serving from 1979-99.

Several years after her father died in 1978, Godwin and her mother discussed the idea of creating an endowed scholarship to honor his legacy. In November 2013, her mother passed. Last fall, the first Leon and Sue Billingsly Memorial Scholarship was awarded to an eligible education student. Godwin said the scholarship allows her parent's legacy to live on and is a way for her to give back to Southern.

Part of her father's legacy occurred on Godwin's 12th birthday. Godwin attended the ceremony where then-Missouri Governor Warren E. Hearnes signed the bill approving the building of a four-year college.

This college would be built on the Mission Hills Estate. To this day, Godwin has the

pen used by Hearnes to sign the bill. These are memories Godwin treasures.

Needless to say, education was important to the Billingsly family.

"I feel I have been truly blessed to have the rare opportunity to watch every building on campus being built, graduate from MSSC, and now, years later, be teaching in the education department at MSSU," said Godwin.


Lee Elliff Pound, '86, director of the Missouri Southern Alumni Association, and Godwin are sorority sisters. Pound and Godwin are proud alumnae of the former Southern chapter of Delta Gamma.

"She has been a great leader to show how you can give back to the university," said Pound.

Godwin has donated to Southern in many ways. Not only is she an adjunct education professor and former Delta Gamma adviser, but Godwin has also dedicated many bricks in the Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center Courtyard. These bricks signify the endless contributions her parents and friends made to Southern.

To her friends who are alumni of Delta Gamma and Kappa Alpha, she has dedicated bricks as birthday gifts. Pound said the bricks are laid once a year in the Alumni Courtyard. If they are a gift, a gift card can be placed in a special MSSU gift box for the recipient.

Throughout the years, Godwin has seen Southern change and grow. As a little girl watching the first brick be placed in the creation of Missouri Southern College to becoming a dedicated adjunct professor of what is now a growing university, she has witnessed key events in Southern's history.

"I will forever be grateful for all the wonderful experiences MSSU provided to my parents and me through the years," Godwin said. 

— Bethany Courtney, '16

*Above, Connie Godwin, '74, has donated several bricks in the Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center Courtyard. She grew up on the Missouri Southern campus, where her father was the first president of Missouri Southern State College and her mother was the first director of the Missouri Southern Foundation.*

*— Photo by Molly Schons, '15; Illustration by Taylor Kubicek, '15*

*Right, Bricks (left and right) in memory of Godwin's parents, Dr. Leon C. and Sue Billingsly, adorn the Courtyard.*

*Center, one of Godwin's treasured memories is when Missouri Southern became a four-year college on her 12th birthday. She keeps the pen used by then-Missouri Gov. Warren E. Hearnes to sign the bill as a reminder.*

*— Photos by Molly Schons, '15*









# Resident Experience

Modern-style apartment complex develops to accommodate more students.



*Josh Doak, '03, director of residence life at Missouri Southern, says the new residence hall complex and its 51 apartments will help attract students to live on campus. — Photo by Levi Andrew, '16*

Sights and sounds of construction have been constant at Missouri Southern as the campus prepares for the opening of a new residence hall complex this fall.





Top left, students pass the new residence hall complex after class this spring. Above left and center, a construction worker prepares baseboard trim for the interior of one of the apartments, which feature tiled floors and showers. Top right and above right, a series of walkways will connect the three-story structures. — Photos by Levi Andrew, '16; Above center photo by Kristen Stacy, '16

Joshua Doak, '03, said the modern-style buildings should spark the interest of students.

"It is very different from what we have now, and I think it will help attract people to want to live on campus," said Doak, director of residence halls at Southern.

The apartments will be fully furnished and include four bedrooms, each with a personal bathroom, a full kitchen with appliances and a laundry unit inside of each unit.

Rooms will come with adjustable height beds with an extra large twin mattress, three-drawer chests, a chair and desk with three drawers attached, and a built-in closet.

With spring semester underway, construction workers continue working hard to have the rooms completed by fall.

"I think students are going to thoroughly enjoy this building, not just saying that from my standpoint," said Doak.

"From what I've seen so far in construction, I think it's going to be worth it. It will definitely improve the student's overall perception of campus living."

When he was a student at Southern,

## RESIDENCE HALLS BY THE NUMBERS

3 Floors in each building

3-4 Bedrooms per apartment

6 Apartment buildings

51 Apartments

78,715 Total square feet

**\$14 million** Cost of construction

Doak engaged himself in the residence hall life and took on responsibilities as a resident assistant.

"I started off in Blaine Hall as a regular student," Doak said.

"My sophomore year I was a resident assistant in Blaine Hall, and my last year, I was in both Blaine and East Hall. I lived in every

style of housing at that time."

Based upon experience, Doak believes it is necessary for students to live in the residence halls for their personal development.

For some, living on campus is an essential part of the process of staying involved and building relationships with other students.

"In my opinion, I feel like a dorm experience enhances the college experience," said Doak.

Bob Harrington, '98, director of the physical plant, said funding for the residence halls comes from a self-bond issued by Southern with cost of the project totaling \$14 million.

Harrington has a positive vision for what the new residence halls bring to Southern.

"The apartments themselves are nice, and I think the students will be very pleased with them," Harrington said. "However, when you walk in the courtyard between the buildings, it becomes very obvious that this will be 'the' gathering and public space for students." **C**

— Adelle Campbell, '16



# True dedication

Baseball field and stadium become a reality for Southern fans and players.



*Junior Chris Hoffman releases the first pitch of the game versus Lincoln University on April 18 at Warren Turner Field.*

Missouri Southern has a rich history rooted in America's favorite pastime, and now the Lions have a new place to call home.

Southern supporters came out to witness a piece of history unfold as the new home of the baseball Lions was formally dedicated on April 18. The event featured a special surprise, not only for the Southern community, but also for the former head coach of the Lions, Warren Turner.

When the sign for Warren Turner Field was unveiled, the coach was humbled. Turner was honored to have his name on the field, but said many people were involved with making it happen.

"My name's on it but there are a

lot of people who have helped," said Turner.

The stadium and field are the culmination of several years of fundraising and planning. The dedication was April 18, but the first game was played on the field February 14.

For the first time, the baseball team has a permanent home after many seasons at Joe Becker Stadium in Joplin. The baseball complex is a premiere facility in the MIAA Conference, capable of playing host to NCAA championships.

Former Lions catcher Matt Nelson, '96, was vital to the committee that moved the project forward. He enjoyed watching the stadium become a reality.

"You hate to say it's a dream come true because it's such a cliché, but it

really is," said Nelson. "And to have Warren Turner's name on the field is just so fitting."

After the dedication and ribbon cutting, first pitches were thrown by Nelson; Turner; Troy, '90, and Jenny, '86, Richards; Steve Koelkebeck; Debbie Thompson; and Rod Anderson, '76. The day wrapped up with a 4-2 victory over Lincoln University, a clean sweep of the series by the Lions.

Turner is excited about what the complex represents for the team and Southern's future.

"This stadium is a showcase for baseball," said Turner, "and having the team we have this season to go along with it is great." **E**

— Jeremy Jones, '15





Top left, Missouri Southern President Alan Marble, '79, (center) holds the ribbon as others cut it to officially dedicate Warren Turner Field on April 18: from left, Mike Pence; head coach Bryce Darnell, '97; Matt Nelson, '96; Marble; former head coach Warren Turner; Gloria Turner, '69 and '71; James Fleischaker; and Athletic Director Jared Bruggeman. Above, senior Chad Shannon and sophomore Richie Gorski prepare to catch the first pitches from stadium benefactors. Above right, assistant coach Jason Immekus (left), Darnell and assistant coach Dennis Vilela stand by the dugout, which has stands above to give fans an up-close experience. Right, Turner addresses attendees at the dedication after the new name is revealed. — Photos by Levi Andrew, '16







## After a long wait, athletics projects near completion.

Deep ruts cut into the red clay from the earth being moved by heavy machinery. The air was full of the rap tap of nail guns and the roar of the large diesel engines that powered earth-moving machines. A worker signaled another to stop what he was doing and hand him a long piece of lumber.

The progression of several renovation and construction projects has been in effect this past year at Missouri Southern, and the athletics department is not falling behind with the construction underway for a new baseball field and a new athletic field house complex. Two seven-figure amounts from the Robert W. Plaster Foundation are dedicated for this purpose. These new facilities will benefit the athletics department as well as Southern.

The Stadium Strategic Plan Committee was assembled in 2005 to develop a plan of action for athletic facilities, and the committee brought the proposal before the Board of Governors on July 20, 2006. Jared Bruggeman has been the athletic director since 2009 and has been a part of this project since that time.

"We got our first donor interested in the project in the spring of 2011," said Bruggeman. "Right after we had that first contribution to the project, we had obviously a major disaster in Joplin, which

put us on hold for a little while."

Although the 2011 tornado that ripped through Joplin slowed down the project, it did not shut it down. The field house construction is scheduled to be completed by the summer of 2015, and the baseball stadium was ready to go for the 2015 season.

The field house complex will house football, baseball and softball with 13 coaches offices, eight meeting and video rooms, a 4,000-square-foot training room, taping stations, an exam room and two medical offices.

Student-athletes will benefit a great deal from the new facilities and will have access to opportunities they haven't in the past.

"This is a big thing for us, particularly for the sport of football," said Bruggeman. "Not to have to walk across the street, to have a locker room in our own facility, and to have an athletic training room that is modernized will be great for our student-athletes. A weight room over there and a weight room here will allow us to be more flexible with our student-athletes to work out so they don't have to be here at 5:30 or 6 in the morning or 9 at night. We currently have an athletic training room, but it's very small and forces athletes to do rehab in the hallways."

In addition to the athletic field house, the baseball stadium, which saw its first game

on February 14 and was dedicated April 18, will help players and coaches.

Lion baseball has not had a field on Southern's campus since 1974. Many memories were made during the Lions' time at Joe Becker Stadium, including the MIAA Conference Championship in 2013, but having a facility on campus will help the players.

Matt Nelson, '96, is a former catcher for the Lions who was an essential factor in organizing the project and helping to raise funds for the new stadium.

"What I'm impressed the most about is that they are going to be on campus," said Nelson. "They're going to have access to the training facilities, they're going to have access to the academic services, they're going to have access to lunch and dinner. These are things that we didn't ever have access to because we were busy running around."

Former state senator, alumnus and friend of Southern Gary Nodler, '72, helped secure state funds for these projects. Nodler believes these developments are moving Southern's academic programs toward a bright future.

"Athletics is the cutting edge to provide resources for academics so that this can become the great university that it has the capacity to be in the 21st century," said Nodler. **C**

— Jeremy Jones, '15

*"Athletics is the cutting edge to provide resources for academics so that this can become the great university that it has the capacity to be in the 21st century."*





Workers set concrete blocks for the walls in the new Missouri Southern field house. Lion football, baseball and softball programs will be located in the facility, which also includes an alumni room. — Photo by Natalie Cossey, '15



## Field house facts

- ▶ Cost is \$9 million.
- ▶ Facility is two stories tall with 42,000 total square feet of space.
- ▶ Includes 13 coaches offices, two conference rooms, an academic room, athletic training room, weight room, and locker rooms for football, baseball and softball.
- ▶ Includes a room for alumni.

Source: Bob Harrington, '98,  
Director of MSSU Physical Plant

## Baseball facts

- ▶ Cost is \$2.5 million.
- ▶ Contains seating for 600 fans.
- ▶ Includes batting cages with bullpens, press box, and modern concessions area.
- ▶ Field features state-of-the-art synthetic turf.
- ▶ Missouri Southern can host NCAA regional and national events.

Source: Bob Harrington, '98,  
Director of MSSU Physical Plant

*Above left, construction progresses on the new Missouri Southern field house. The facility, located at the north end of the football stadium, will feature an outdoor terrace. The field house has a total of 42,000 square feet. — Photo by Levi Andrew, '16*  
*Above right, the new baseball stadium features an artificial turf surface. — Photo by Natalie Cossey, '16*



# Positive numbers

Alumnus shares life of business, generosity and good fortune.

**H**e may have grown up in the house where he was born in Drexel, Missouri, but Daryl Deel, '75, retained that small-town spirit and used it to pursue a successful career.

Deel came to Joplin during high school to visit a friend who was attending Missouri Southern and playing basketball for the Lions. Deel made friends with some students during his visit, which helped prompt his decision to go to college at Southern.

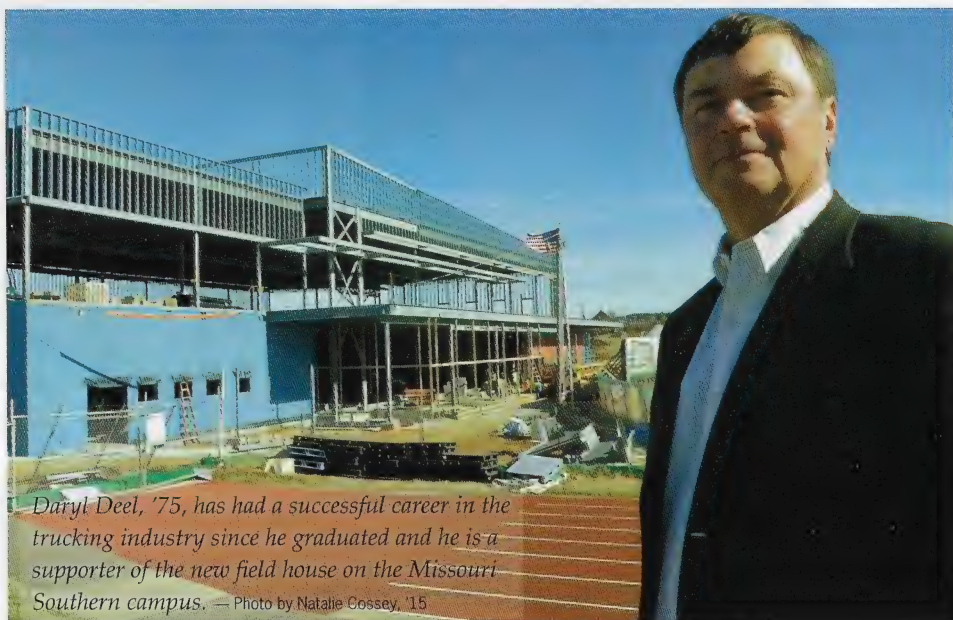
At that time, Drexel graduates had a reputation for attending the University of Central Missouri at Warrensburg.

"Out of our 23 that graduated, we had five that came here to Missouri Southern that year," said Deel. "That started a trend from kids who graduated from Drexel to start coming to Missouri Southern over the years."

Deel believes in giving back to his alma mater and is one of the donors for the new athletic field house, which is scheduled for completion this summer.

"I do believe that a very successful program for either football or basketball will drive more attention to the university," said Deel, "and if that field house is something that's important for being able to attract the right kind of student-athlete, then it made sense."

In high school, Deel took an accounting class. The subject came easy to him, which led him to major in accounting at Southern. Deel spent a semester on campus and from there moved into a house with some friends. During his first semester, Deel worked as a janitor in Reynolds Hall on a work-study program. After moving off-



*Daryl Deel, '75, has had a successful career in the trucking industry since he graduated and he is a supporter of the new field house on the Missouri Southern campus. — Photo by Natalie Cossey, '15*

campus, a friend's uncle helped Deel find a job as an assistant manager at the 15th Street Wal-Mart.

"Back then, if you wanted your prescription filled, they'd take it to your house, and that's what I did," said Deel.

Deliveries and work as an assistant at the pharmacy had Deel working 40 hours a week on top of being a full-time student.

His senior year, Deel landed an internship with the Joplin branch of the accounting firm Baird, Kurtz and Dobson.

"If you were an accounting major and you were selected by one of the CPA firms in the area, you would go work for them for about a month over Christmas break," Deel said.

After he graduated, BKD invited him to help with tax season, and from there, offered him a position at the firm. From the earliest days at BKD, Deel developed a name for himself as a transportation specialist, working with trucking companies in the area.

Deel worked his way up to become a partner at BKD, when he was approached by the executives of Trism Inc., a tri-state trucking company owned by investment bankers in New York.

"These guys came and convinced me that we were going to make a lot of money, that it was going to be easy and that we were going to have fun," said Deel. "Well, we didn't make any money, and it wasn't easy, but we did have a little bit of fun."

At Trism, Deel learned how to run a business. He spent seven years as the executive vice president of finance for Trism before being made president of Tri-State Motor Transit, which was a subsidiary of

Trism. After spending a year at Tri-State, changes were made in the organizational structure, and Deel's position was eliminated.


"I've said it lots of times, but the best day in my life was getting fired from Trism," said Deel. "I got fired on a Sunday, I took one day off, then on Tuesday I called a guy from Canada that I knew owned R&R Trucking."

Within six weeks, the paperwork had gone through and Deel purchased R&R. He owned R&R for 10 years and grew the business from its initial revenue of \$1 million a year to \$75 million a year in 2007.

Deel is one of the benefactors for the new field house at Missouri Southern, which will be completed during the summer. He believes in Southern and wants to help make it a better place. He thinks this field house will help.

"I think a successful athletic program will make the university better in a number of ways," said Deel. "I believe the addition of a very nice field house will help with recruiting for quality athletes."

Through the field house project and golfing at Twin Hills Country Club, Deel developed a relationship with Jared Bruggeman, the director of athletics at Missouri Southern. Bruggeman is thankful for alumni who help make the university a better place for future students.

"We already have so many great alums who are helping to increase the footprint of Missouri Southern," said Bruggeman. "They are giving of their resources and time to make the university better, and we are thankful for them." 

— Jeremy Jones, '15





Left, Taevaunn Prince, who earned MIAA second-team honors this season, goes up for a shot against Central Missouri. Center left, junior guard Austin Wright led the Lions with 79 3-pointers-made this season. Center right, Camila Lacerda drives the ball past Central Missouri. Right, senior Nic Hartzog averaged 13.5 points per game this season, finishing in the top 15 in scoring for the league. — Photos by David Moss

# Lion tough

## Teams finish with 20-win seasons and the MIAA Tournament.

### Men (20-11)

The first year of Jeff Boschee at the helm of the men's basketball program was a successful one as the Lions advanced to their second-straight MIAA Tournament final and finished with 20 wins for the fourth time in five seasons.

Picked to finish fifth in the MIAA Preseason Coaches Poll, the Lions proved the coaches wrong and earned the third seed and a bye to the MIAA Tournament in Kansas City.

Southern started the season with an 8-4 record at the turn of the New Year. The Lions finished the regular season 10-6 and won the first two games of the MIAA Tournament against Nebraska-Kearney (97-88) and No. 18 Central Missouri (81-74) before falling in the finals to Pittsburg State, with a final overall record 20-11.

Southern had four players earn postseason honors, led by junior Taevaunn Prince who was a second-team selection. Cameron Cornelius and Lane Barlow were both honorable mention selections, and Greg Renfroe was named to the All-Defensive team.

Junior guard Austin Wright had a memorable season shooting the long-ball. He set a single-game MSSU record with nine made-3's against Northeastern State and finished the season with 79, also setting a new single-season record. He sits in fourth-place, one out of third, in the

career 3-pointers-made category, needing just 47 in his senior campaign to break the Southern record.

— Justin Maskus,  
Athletics Media Relations Director

### Women (20-7)

The women finished in the top half of the MIAA as they went 14-5 in conference play, 20-7 overall. This was the first 20-win season for the program since the 1995-96 season. The Lions finished fourth in the MIAA after being picked to finish sixth in the MIAA Preseason Coaches Poll. Southern finished in the top half of the MIAA in 14 different stat categories and finished eighth in all of NCAA D-II in team free-throw percentage.

Southern started the season on a six-game, nonconference, winning streak, as it defeated D-II opponents Oklahoma Panhandle, Rockhurst, Quincy, Northwestern Oklahoma State and NAIA members Avila and Central Christian. In the game against Central Christian, the Lions set a new school record with 33 assists, four off the MIAA single-game record held by Emporia State. The Lions ran their winning streak to eight as they opened MIAA play with road wins over Nebraska-Kearney and then-seventh-ranked Washburn. After losing four straight, the Lions bounced back with a seven-game winning streak that included wins over Northeastern State, who they held to nine first-half points, road wins at Lindenwood

and Lincoln, a 1-point win over Northwest Missouri that included a 19-8 run over the last 10:44, wins at Missouri Western and Southwest Baptist, and a home win over Central Missouri. After the Jennies avenged their loss in Warrensburg, Southern ran off another six wins heading into the MIAA Postseason Tournament, including an overtime win at Northwest Missouri, home wins over Missouri Western, Southwest Baptist, Lindenwood, Lincoln, and a road overtime win over then-seventh-ranked Pittsburg State.

Southern's season ended with a loss to Central Missouri in the quarterfinals of the MIAA Postseason Tournament in Kansas City.

Junior Sharese Jones and senior Nic Hartzog led the Lions, as they averaged 13.7 and 13.5 points per game, respectively. Jones and Hartzog finished in the top 15 in scoring in the league, with Jones also finishing sixth in both rebounding with 7.3 per game and field-goal percentage, shooting .498 for the season. Hartzog and Jones also finished first and fourth in the league in free-throw percentage for the year, with Hartzog finishing 34th in all of NCAA D-II.

For their efforts, Jones and Hartzog earned second team All-MIAA honors. Hartzog also earned All-Defensive team accolades.

— Shaun Buck, '11,  
Athletics Media Relations Assistant





Marshall Reed, '08, and Kimi Shank-Reed, '10, met while students at Missouri Southern and later married. Marshall helps train Kimi for marathons. She recently qualified for the Olympic Trials after a personal best time at the Grandma's Marathon in Duluth, Minnesota. — Submitted photo

# For the love of the run

## Shank-Reed, '10, sets mark in qualifier for Olympic Trials.

**H**er running time was approaching 2:41:44 as she neared the finish line. The crowd ran along the fence, yelling in excitement. Kimi Shank-Reed, '10, completed the marathon with hopes that her time was better than before.

"After my second marathon in fall 2013, I was surprised at how close I got to the qualifying time for the trials," Shank-Reed said of her finish in June 2014 at the Grandma's Marathon, an annual race

held in Duluth, Minnesota.

She ran a personal best in June, and finished the race with a time of 2:41:54. After multiple records and All-American statuses, Shank-Reed qualified for the U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Men's and Women's Marathon, to be held in February 2016 in Los Angeles.

Shank-Reed has had a great go at running thus far. After a close qualifying time in her first marathon, she began to see the real-

ity of how she could qualify for the Olympic Trials. It took time, travel and training for the Springfield, Missouri, resident to make it this far. Aside from all the traveling and running, she faces other everyday obstacles that make training difficult.

"I work a full-time job as a physical therapist and starting a run or workout at 7:30 p.m. after being on my feet all day can be challenging, so I elevate my legs by putting them in the air to increase my blood to



my heart, in hopes of a good run," Shank-Reed said.

She competed in other marathons before the Grandma's Marathon and was aware of the effort it took to run in a race like that.

"I was only 80 seconds off the qualifying time the last marathon I did, so I knew I had what it took to shave that 80 seconds off and get to the Olympic Trials," she said.

As an eighth-grader, Shank-Reed was the first to finish the mile in her class. She picked up cross-country her freshman year of high school and continued her running career at Missouri Southern.

"At that point, the farthest I had raced was a mile; the thought of 3 miles was ludicrous to me," she said.

Shank-Reed met her husband, Marshall Reed, '08, also a Southern cross-country runner, in the Lion athletic training room. They became running partners soon after. One could say Reed is her coach figure now; he put together Shank-Reed's training plan and has supported her throughout her entire journey. He ran beside Shank-Reed for 10 miles in the Grandma's Marathon.

"We spent the entire summer before

her sophomore year training and pushing each other to get back into shape, and we have been pushing each other since," her husband said.

Self-motivation and setting goals drives Shank-Reed to do her best. Her mother came to almost every race at Southern, constantly motivating her daughter. Her mom doesn't come to as many races now, but that could change with the Olympic Trials.

"It wouldn't surprise me if she ends up coming to Los Angeles with us for the trials," Shank-Reed said.

She has yet to stop her dream of running.

"There is not a chance of making the Olympics," Shank-Reed said, "but the excitement of qualifying is enough."

This statement hasn't tempered her determination. To get to the trials, Shank-Reed trained with high mileage and endurance workouts, such as 10-mile tempo runs aimed at race pace. At times, she would do 5k repeats, which equates to 3.1-mile runs multiple times in a row.

"After grinding out 65-75 miles a week, at times, taking step after step to finish a 24-mile run would break my muscles down,

but that didn't stop me from continuing to run seven days a week," she said.

To assure Shank-Reed would recover properly, her husband gave her active-release treatments to keep her muscles from breaking down. This allowed her to recover faster from her training workouts for the Grandma's Marathon.

"It was such a relief to cross the line and finish over a minute under the standard," she said.

Running day after day, the goal of being the best runner Shank-Reed can be is happening.

"I'll get to toe the line with runners like Kara Goucher and Deena Kastor. A realistic goal for me would be to finish in the top half and run sub 2:40," she said.

The road less traveled sometimes leads to great accomplishments. Shank-Reed has come a long way with distance running, 13 plus years and still going strong.

"It's such a relief that I actually qualified, that I have no real pressure for this race. My biggest fear would be greatly underperforming," she said. **E**

— Emily Harris, '16



## MSSU records set by Kimi Shank-Reed

- 5k indoor, 16:47
- 5k outdoor, 16:41
- 10k outdoor, 34:51
- Distance medley relay, indoor track

Far left, Kimi Shank-Reed finishes the Twin Cities Marathon in October 2013 in Minneapolis. — Submitted photo

Left, Shank-Reed returned in February to cheer on the Lions at the Missouri Southern Lion Open indoor track meet in Leggett & Platt Athletic Center. — Photo by Kristen Stacey





Left, Austin Wolfe was a third-team, All-MIAA pick in the 2014 season. Center, Giresse Forchu is a third-team, All-MIAA pick and ranked 21st nationally and led the MIAA in rushing touchdowns. Right, junior Callie Whetstone broke the Lions single-season record with 150 block assists and led the nation in that category. — Photos by Mike Gullett

# It's a wrap ...

## Southern excels in fall events

### Football (4-7)

The season was not what any of the coaches or players would call acceptable, but the Lions fought through injuries and had a pair of back-to-back wins to post a 4-7 season.

The Lions had wins at Nebraska-Kearney and at home against Washburn, as well as at home against Northeastern State in a televised game, while winning on the road at Lindenwood the week later.

In all, 10 Lions earned All-MIAA honors, led by Ty'Quan Hayes, who was a second team selection. Hayes led the MIAA in combined kick returns and ranked second in the league in punt returns. He also ranked 21st nationally in punt returns, averaging 13.2 yards per return.

Giresse Forchu was a third-team All-MIAA pick and was ranked 21st nationally and in the league in rushing touchdowns with 15. Austin Wolfe was also a third team pick.

Forchu earned All-Region honors and was named a first-team Academic All-American. The Lions had 11 players named to the MIAA Academic Honor Roll.

### Volleyball

The inaugural season of new head coach John Napier saw records fall and a national statistical leader.

The Lions doubled their win total from a year prior, winning eight matches on the

season. Senior Katie Politte finished her career with 1,160 kills, which ranks eighth all-time in MSSU history. Her 4,013 total attacks ranks third best, and she is one of three MSSU players to record more than 4,000 attacks in a career. Her 1,317 attacks rank third-best in a single season at MSSU.

Junior Callie Whetstone finished the season with 150 block assists, breaking the MSSU single-season record that had stood at 115. Her 171 total blocks ranks third-best, and she led in Division II in blocks per set, while ranking second in total blocks. Her 298 career total blocks rank eighth in MSSU history, while her 256

block assists rank third-best.

The Lions' 451 block assists on the season also sets a new team single-season record, besting the previous mark of 357.

Both Whetstone and Politte were named second-team All-MIAA picks, while the team had four individuals named to the MIAA Academic Honor Roll.

### Cross Country

The teams produced one of the most dominant performances seen out of the programs in MSSU history.

Both teams started the year as the pre-season favorites to win the MIAA and both were nationally ranked.

The women started the season finishing fourth overall at the Southern Stampede but were the top Division II team in the field. The Lions won every other regular-season and capped the season with a first-place finish at the 2014 MIAA Championships.

Emily Harris, Kindra Emberton, Dora Eastin, Kaitlyn Belisle, Addie Mengwasser and Dana Roberson were named All-MIAA after finishing in the top 20 at the league meet.

The women finished third at the NCAA Division II Central Region meet, qualifying for the National Championships, where the Lions finished 27th overall. Eastin and Harris were named All-Region, while coach Patty Vavra earned MIAA Coach of the Year honors.

The men also had a memorable season. The Lions finished third at the Stampede, where Eric Schott started the season win-

Left, senior Eric Schott was the most dominant single-season individual runner by any MSSU men's cross country runner. Center, Dora Eastin was an All-Region selection last fall. Right, Carly Cecil was one of three Lions with three assists for Missouri Southern in the 2014 season. — Photos by Mike Gullett and Justin Maskus





ning the individual title at the event.

That race started one of the most dominant single-season individual runs by any MSSU men's cross country runner. Schott won four MIAA Cross Country Runner of the Week awards, and he was never defeated by another Division II runner until the NCAA Regional meet.

Schott was the top D-II runner at the Chili Pepper Festival at the University of Arkansas, before winning meets at Southwest Baptist and Missouri S&T. He capped the regular season by helping the men to the MIAA Championship and winning the individual MIAA title. Schott and fellow teammates Tyler Rush and Andrew Webster finished 1-2-3 at the meet; Colton Wooldridge was seventh and Adrian Todd was ninth. The five runners earned All-MIAA honors.

The Lions won three meets during the regular season and placed third at the NCAA Division II Regional, qualifying for the NCAA Championships. Schott placed

second at the regional, and he, Webster and Todd earned All-Region honors. The Lions finished 17th at the National Championships.

Coach Bryan Schiding made it a Southern sweep of the MIAA Coach of the Year honors, winning his first such league honor.

### Soccer (5-11-2)

The team finished the season at 5-11-2 overall, 3-10-1 in the MIAA, narrowly missing the MIAA Postseason Tournament. The Lions started their season 2-1-1 in nonconference action, falling in the season opener to Drury 2-0 before rebounding and defeating former MIAA rival Missouri S&T, 2-1, in Springfield.

The Lions traveled to Claremore, Oklahoma, and defeated Rogers State 5-0 and tied East Central in its home opener, 3-3 in double overtime. The three conference wins consisted of a 2-0 win over Nebraska-Kearney at home and a pair of 1-0 wins

on the road at Washburn in overtime and at Emporia State. Southern had the lead over then 10th-ranked Central Missouri in Warrensburg before the Jennies made a second-half comeback, winning the match 4-1.

Senior goalkeeper Beth Hammons finished her Green and Gold career with 2,688 minutes played in the net. Hammons finished fifth in school history with 167 saves and tied for fourth all time in goals against average with a 1.67 goals against average.

Senior Casey Vitale led the Lions with five goals on the season, while senior Kelsey Haist finished with three. Also scoring three times were freshman Hannah Bomar and junior Karley Thomas. Bomar, sophomore Carly Cecil and junior Kimmy Hulse led the team in assists with three each.

— Justin Maskus,  
Athletics Media Relations Director, and  
Shaun Buck, '11, Athletics Media Relations Assistant

## Lions notebook

### MoSo Lions conduct successful Pride for Pink Campaign

The Missouri Southern Athletics Department held its annual Pink Game on February 14 as the Lions hosted Missouri Western on Robert Corn Court inside the Leggett & Platt Athletic Center.

The women's basketball Pink Game was only one facet of the larger Pride for Pink Campaign that MSSU has been running this year. Each women's sport at Southern had a specified Pride for Pink event; T-shirts were sold and donations were accepted throughout the year.

The department started with a goal to raise \$10,000 throughout the year. As of April, the total raised for the Pride for Pink campaign was \$14,159.

During the women's basketball game in February, each player wore a special Nike customized pink jersey, that was auctioned off.

Special Pride for Pink T-shirts were sold and donations were accepted as Freeman Health System, Hope 4 You, the American Cancer Society and Zeta Tau Alpha were on hand to sell pink items and providing information to fans. The

department raised over \$1,000 in jersey sales.

In addition to the women's basketball game in February and an April 21 softball game versus Central Missouri, the following events in fall 2014 were the designated pink events for each sport: The First to the Finish Southern Stampede on September 20; Soccer vs. Central Oklahoma on October 23; Volleyball vs. Nebraska-Kearney on October 18; and Football vs. Northeastern State on October 18.

— Justin Maskus, Athletics Media Relations Director



Left, a young Lion fan and Roary participate in a ball handling drill that was part of the halftime entertainment put on by Robin Slain, who can spin 10 balls at one time and travels to games with her exhibition. Center, the Lions warm up before the Pink Game. Right, student-athletes show their pink and surround the Missouri Southern campus sign on Newman Road. — Submitted photos



# Q&A

A study abroad experience set in motion a career that began with the Peace Corps and led to work with the CDC in Tanzania.



Kate Raum, '02, is a communications adviser for CTS Global, which provides consulting services for the Centers for Disease Control in Tanzania. — Submitted photo

**Q:** What are the most rewarding aspects of your time in Tanzania?

**A:** I feel like I've been here long enough that Tanzania is a part of me and my life story. I'm not just a traveler who's been to a cool place on a safari. I live here and have friends here and I'm afforded a richer understanding of the culture because I've stayed a while and observed longer. I was in Tanzania before I began this job, so in total, I've been here about four years, nonconsecutively. I was a Peace Corps volunteer in a village in northern central Tanzania from 2005-07, during which time I really got to know rural culture and life here. Then I worked for a refugee legal aid nonprofit organization during my master's studies, where I got to see a whole different subset of the population — Congolese and Burundian refugees — and how they live in a country where they are not wanted. Then I was the director of a small road safety nongovernmental organization, which put me in the heart of the city, interacting with an urban population, learning about life in this city of four million people. Now I work with highly educated, highly intellectual individuals who give me a whole new lens to see Tanzania through. It's really rewarding to me to know that I have knowledge and experience outside of my home state, my home country. Understanding the similarities between Tanzania and the U.S. makes the world seem small and comfortable to me, yet also bigger because there are so many other countries and cultures out there in the world that I haven't seen.

**Q:** What are the greatest challenges in your position?

**A:** My biggest communications task is to make information that comes from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Tanzania as easily understandable as possible. This is difficult when the information is highly scientific or medical: I don't have a background in medicine or public health or statistics, so when our scientists and doctors explain to me what needs to be messaged out to the public, it often takes several discussions for me to

understand exactly what they mean. That's half the battle; the other half is, once I understand it myself, figuring out how to make it accessible at a basic education level. The media sometimes reports things about CDC or our partners incorrectly or out of context. Once incorrect things are printed, though, I work with the country director to determine the appropriate course of action. Sometimes we work to have a correction issued; other times we pick our battles. On a personal level, I miss my family a lot. It's a long way home and I usually only get to go back once a year. It's the biggest hardship of an otherwise really cool life and place that I love.

**Q:** How has your time in Tanzania impacted your daily life?

**A:** I've adapted in lots of ways that I probably don't even realize. Some of it's just the adjustment of moving from a big town to a huge city, which would probably happen even if I lived in the U.S. I speak Swahili daily. The traffic is so bad here that I don't drive, so I take taxis or walk wherever I go. I think about what I wear depending on which part of the city I'm in or where I'm traveling. I find that I'm treated with more respect when I dress modestly. So no shorts, no skirts above the knee, and usually no bare shoulders. Electricity is a problem here, so I try to remember to monitor my phone and make sure I have a decent amount of charge on it. It's also expensive, so I constantly think about what I'm doing in my house and how much electricity I'm using. Most all infrastructure lags severely behind that of the U.S., including roads, so when I need to do anything that involves a government office or road travel I prepare to wait a long, long time. I don't stock up on things like we do at home. I buy what I need for a few days or the week. It's not really a thing here to buy 36 rolls of toilet paper at once. Partly that has to do with unstable electricity: you don't want to risk 10 pounds of meat defrosting and going bad when the freezer has been off too long during the day. Water also isn't reliable, so I think about how much I have available and

how much to conserve when the water is off—I don't do laundry on the days when we don't have water.

**Q:** How did Missouri Southern prepare you for your career?

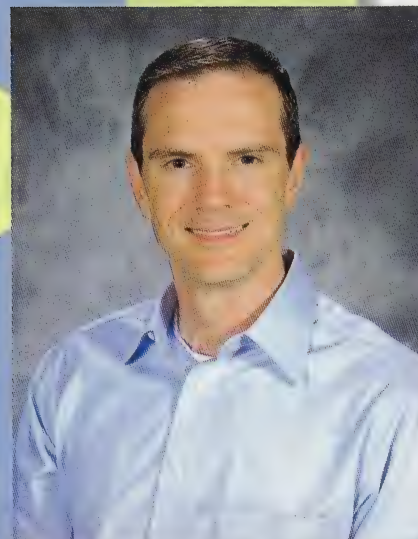
**A:** I know the exact moment that my overseas life and career path began. I was 19. I applied for and was awarded a grant from the International Studies Department to study French in Orleans, France, for six weeks over a summer. My family couldn't have afforded to send me there without it. I wanted to get better at French and six weeks didn't sound as scary as a semester away from home. It was the first time I'd left home for so long and the first time I got a passport. I felt comfortable because I went with my French professor, Dr. Maryann Weber, and a group of four girls, one of whom I knew from class. If it weren't for the grant that I received to go on that trip, I might not be working internationally today. That's the beginning of the story of how a kid from Joplin, Missouri, ends up working in Tanzania. I'd be a great poster child for the International Studies Department. I had a handful of professors who I found fascinating in that way that surely happens to lots of college students when they're exposed to new ideas and ways of thinking for the first time. A few of them took an interest in me and my life path while I was a student; I developed professional relationships with others after I graduated. They all influenced my professional and personal life as short- and/or long-term mentors: Bob Markman, David Locher, Richard Miller, Ree Wells and Conrad Gubera.

Kate Raum is originally from Joplin, Missouri. She has been working with CDC Tanzania for six months and is in charge of all communication. She graduated from Missouri Southern in 2002 with a degree in sociology.

— Bethany Courtney, '16



# A rewarding vocation



ROBERT LUNDIEN

## Professional

Counselor, Staley High School,  
North Kansas City School  
District, 2009 to present  
School Psychological Examiner,  
Webb City, Missouri, School  
District, 2006-09  
Counselor/A+ Coordinator, Neosho  
(Missouri) High School, 2004-06  
Band Director, Music Teacher, Part-  
Time Middle School Counselor;  
Diamond Missouri School  
District, 2000-04  
Middle School Band Director,  
Assistant High School Band  
Director, Nevada, Missouri,  
School District, 1998-00  
K-12 Music Teacher; Liberal,  
Missouri, School District, 1997-  
98  
High School & Middle School Choir  
& Band Teacher Assistant;  
Seneca, Missouri, School  
District, 1996-97

## Education

Specialist in Education in School  
Counseling, Pittsburg State  
University, 2009  
Master of Science in Secondary  
School Counseling, Missouri  
State University, 2002  
Bachelor of Science in Instrumental  
Music Education, Missouri  
Southern State University, 1996

## Personal

Lundien enjoys running and has  
completed about 25 half  
marathons and three full  
marathons.

## Alumnus receives Missouri Secondary School Counselor of the Year award.

Although a simple conversation with this educator might not reveal his true character, secondary school counselor Robert Lundien, '96, has set high standards for Missouri Southern graduates.

In 2014, Lundien became the recipient of the Missouri Secondary School Counselor of the Year Award, an honor he received with help from his colleagues at Staley High School in Kansas City, Missouri.

To be eligible for the state award, Lundien had to be selected first at the district level, and the Staley family was more than willing to support him through that process.

"My principal and a few staff members submitted a nomination to the organization for the local award," said Lundien. "I received that award, which then put me in the running for the state award."

Many others also assisted with the nomination and selection process.

"I had to get letters of recommendation from students, from other staff members, other counselors," said Lundien. "It was pretty detailed and pretty strenuous just because there were so many fine details, and you had to make sure that you had everything according to the criteria and the way they wanted it."

After going through the local process with the Greater Kansas City School Counselors Association, finalists were referred to the Missouri School Counselors association for the statewide selection.

Lundien learned in August that he had been named Missouri Secondary School Counselor of the Year.

He formally received the award at the state convention November 2-4, 2014, at Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach, Missouri.

At Staley, Lundien and his colleagues help students through diverse situations.

"We have about 1,460 students in our high school. We have four counselors and a gifted coordinator," said Lundien. "There are five of us that actually do a wide variety, anywhere from personal social emotional counseling to college and career planning. I would say we do a lot of the college and career planning, but also we're available for a student in the middle of a crisis or in the middle of a personal issue."

Lundien, who was drawn to counseling soon after he graduated from Southern, is humbled by his achievement.

"It's overwhelming to think that I was a recipient of this award because I just try to come in and do a good job every day just like my colleagues do," he said. **E**

— Jeremy Jones, '15



# Alumni accept awards for teaching

## New educators receive teaching honors

Two recent Missouri Southern School of Education graduates were recognized as Outstanding Beginning Teachers by the Missouri Association of Colleges for Teacher Education.

Whitney Triplett, '14, a business education major, and Jordan Hern, '14, elementary education, were selected for the honor.



Whitney Triplett, '14, (left) and Jordan Hern, '14, (right) receive awards at the Missouri Association of Colleges for Teacher Education spring conference in Jefferson City. — Submitted photos

Triplett teaches Business Technology, Web Design, Desktop Publishing and Introduction to Business at Seneca High School.

Hern teaches fifth grade (including reading, math, social studies and science) at Noel Elementary.

MACTE accepts nominations for the awards every two years. Member institutions may nominate up to two first- or second-year teachers. The association requires feedback from faculty, student-teaching supervisor and cooperating teacher during their student teaching. A letter of recommendation from the hiring principal regarding

their performance during their first year is also required.

In his letter of support to the association, the Seneca High School principal wrote that Triplett "has a great rapport with her students, is knowledgeable in her subject and does a remarkable job of communicating that knowledge. (She) seems to be beyond her years in terms of her maturity and abilities, and due to her interactions with students, her delivery of material and her professionalism, one would never know she's a first-year teacher."

Rebecca Gallemore, associate professor of teacher education at Southern, wrote in her support letter that "Hern is organized, patient, determined, funny, caring, thorough and driven to succeed ... her goal is to make a difference in her students' lives and enjoy their 'ah-ha moments' along the way. Ms. Hern

will affect many children in a positive way for years to come."

Triplett and Hern received their awards during a luncheon held as part of the association's spring conference in Jefferson City.

## Graduate earns Teacher of the Year

Amanda Royster, '11, was named the 2014-15 Teacher of the Year for Wyandotte (Oklahoma) Public Schools.

Royster teaches English I, II and Honors English III for ninth, 10th and 11th grades. She is the Student Council adviser and has worked on many outreach projects helping students in need.

"What I love most about teaching is undoubtedly my students and the bonds I form with them," Royster told the *Miami News Record*.

"It is so rewarding to invest time and knowledge in them and watch them grow into young men and women with so much to offer the world. I feel humbled and blessed to be a part of that process."

Tory Gray, superintendent of Wyandotte Public Schools, praised Royster for her passion in the classroom and desire to help students reach their full potential.

"Our students are blessed each day they attend her class," he said. "She is what we are about at WPS, and I am proud to call her one of our own."

## School of Education offers new degree

This spring, the university received provisional approval from the Missouri Department of Higher Education to offer a new Master of Science Degree in Education-School Administration.

The degree, which was proposed by the late Dr. Al Cade, who also shepherded it through the approval process, is designed for pre-kindergarten through 12th-grade educators seeking the certification to become elementary or secondary school principals. Survey data from area administrators and teachers indicated a strong interest in this program, and employment opportunities for administrators are expected to grow over the next five years.

The program joins the Master of Science in Curriculum and Instruction, which began its first cohort in 2014.

— Scott Meeker, '98, URM Communications Specialist



**Amanda Royster, '11**

English Teacher  
Wyandotte (Oklahoma) High School



# Missouri governor tours Reynolds

## Funding appropriation is announced

It was announced in May that the Missouri House passed a bill that, after a signature by Governor Jay Nixon, will appropriate \$5.2 million in maintenance and repair funds for Reynolds Hall. Also announced in May was a state grant of \$1.5 million for Reynolds, provided that Missouri Southern raises \$1.5 million in matching funds. This provides a total of \$8.2 million for the renovations of Reynolds Hall.

During a tour of Reynolds Hall on December 5, 2014, Nixon announced he would request more than \$5.2 million in funding from the state legislature for renovations to the building. The Missouri General Assembly passed a bill with bipartisan support that provided an additional bonding capacity of up to \$200 million for repairs and renovation projects at community colleges and four-year institutions throughout the state.

After touring the lab areas, Nixon said he hopes the bill will allow long-overdue projects at colleges and universities to move forward.

"Many of these projects will improve facilities in the area of science, math, engineering and technology ... our STEM fields, which are high-demand fields for creating high-paying jobs," said Nixon. "And that includes the project that university leadership (at Missouri Southern) has identified as their top priority — renovation of the science labs in Reynolds Hall."

Completed in May 1967, Reynolds Hall was the second building ready for occupancy on the current Southern campus. An expansion in 1988 nearly doubled its size (to approximately 63,000 square feet) when a rapid increase in enrollment strained the capacity of the campus.

Coursework offered in the building is in high demand, as it provides prerequisites to nursing and allied health majors or is part of a major with a large number of students.

## Southern presents Shakespeare

Now in its third year, the Missouri Shakespeare Festival will bring another of the Bard's classic plays to campus. Southern Theatre will present *The Tempest* at 7:30 p.m. June 23-27, with a matinee performance at 2:30 p.m. June 28.

"*The Tempest* has magic and wonderful, universal themes of forgiveness, reconciliation and some really dandy characters," said Dr. Jim Lile, chair of the theatre department and director of the production. "You've got court intrigue, a shipwreck and all kinds of things that make Shakespeare fun."

Tickets are \$10 and can be reserved by calling the ticket office at 417-625-3190.

## Turkish author visits campus

O.Z. Livaneli, one of Turkey's most prominent and popular authors, offered two presentations and book signings during a January visit to Missouri Southern.

His 2002 international bestseller, *Bliss*, was selected as the common read for the University Experience 100 course for the 2014-15 year. The novel tells the story of Meryem, a young girl sentenced to death because she is believed to have dishonored her family; Cemal, a soldier who returns from fighting to find that he's been given the task of killing his cousin; and Professor Irfan, a well-known intellectual in the midst of an existential crisis whose path intersects with the others.

"The novel was relatable in terms of a coming-of-age experience," said Wendy McGrane, director of Spiva Library. "There were lots of opportunities to develop talking points that were meaningful to a range of students."



Missouri Governor Jay Nixon receives a tour of Reynolds Hall along with members of Missouri Southern's president's council and the Board of Governors. — Photos by Curtis Almeter, '13



Turkish author O.Z. Livaneli signs copies of his 2002 international bestseller, *Bliss*, at Spiva Library.

## Southern offers new degree

This fall, Southern will offer a bachelor's degree in social work. According to the Missouri Department of Economic Development, Missouri Economic Research and Information Center, the increased demand for social workers in Missouri between 2010-20 will range from 12.9 to 27 percent, depending on the area of employment. Those interested may enroll in the program as a social work applicant, but for full admission to the program, students need to have completed all their general education courses and an application to the social work department.

— Scott Meeker, '98, URM Communications Specialist



# 'Consultants' assist local company

## Students get 'real life' experience

Students in a special strategic management course had the opportunity to work as business consultants for H.E. Williams, a Carthage, Missouri-based company, which has manufactured and sold lighting fixtures around the country for more than 60 years.

An early class session this spring allowed students to quiz company officials on the types of sales force they employ, their marketing message and sales strategies.

"It's a class we offer every spring," said Dr. John Groesbeck, dean of the school of business, who team-teaches the course with Dr. Chris Moos. "The students have to apply for admission and then work as consultants, focusing on the company's needs. They take a tour, complete projects for the company and assess their strengths, weaknesses and opportunities."

"They give a final presentation in the company's boardroom in front of their president and CEO, who will then have the opportunity to engage the students and ask them questions."

In past years, the class has worked with Wal-Mart, Leggett & Platt and Con-way Truckload.

Elisa Heinamaa, a junior international business and management major from Finland, said she appreciates the opportunity to gain "real

life" business experience from the course.

"You get to work with a business and hear what they have to say," she said. "And if we come up with something good, then they have something that they can take away from it."

Phil Slinkard, CFO for H.E. Williams, said the course marks the first time since he's been with the company that such a partnership has been established. He said the semester-long class could be a win-win situation for the students and company.

"Not having had this kind of interaction, there are skill sets that get lost when experience takes over rather than training," he said. "There are a lot of things we learned in school that we've forgotten, so it will be good to get some fresh perspective."

## Dev-Con 1 competition launched

This spring, the Robert W. Plaster School of Business sponsored the Dev-Con 1 competition — a chance for student programmers to develop original software and mobile applications.

"This was the inaugural year for the contest," said Sherry Noller, communications and outreach coordinator for the school of business. "It was open to all MSSU students. We tried to promote the development of innovative ideas using technology and offered prizes for the mobile app or software that was the most commercially viable."

"We wanted to challenge students to find a problem and develop something with real-life applications to help solve that problem ... something that if taken to the marketplace, people would have an interest in purchasing it."

Cash prizes were awarded: \$2,000 for first place went to senior Kayla Monteleone, sophomore Ellen Rogers, and Trevor Hailey; \$1,000 for second went to sophomore Travis Lewis and Matt Eschbach; and \$500 for third went to junior Kyle Ferguson and Alex Gardner. Students entering the competition could work in teams and bring in outside help, as long as the team was made up of at least 50 percent students enrolled at the university.

Noller hopes Dev-Con will become an annual competition that will grow in size and scope.

"We have hopes of possibly being able to have other universities participate," she said.

— Scott Meeker, '98, URM Communications Specialist



Michael Maddock (left), Holly Loncarich, Trevor Hill, Cara Gooch and Craig Yeoman are students in the spring strategic management course in the Robert W. Plaster School of Business. — Photos by Curtis Almeter, '13



Dr. John Groesbeck (right), dean of the school of business, talks to the strategic management class as Kelly Hartley, business development manager with H.E. Williams, looks on.



The Dev-Con 1 competition gave students a chance to develop original software and mobile apps.



# Alumna finds passion at new Mercy

## Alum makes move to new hospital

It's an exciting feeling, Katie Tinney, '14, said of walking through the halls of the new Mercy Hospital Joplin.

The grand opening of the new, 900,000-square-foot facility in March was a milestone for the Joplin hospital. The former St. John's Regional Medical Center was rocked to its foundation by the EF-5 tornado that tore through Joplin on May 22, 2011. Tinney is one of several recent graduates of the nursing program at Missouri Southern employed at the new hospital. She said she had been looking forward to moving from Mercy's temporary location into the new building at 50th Street and Hearnese Boulevard.

"It's amazing to finally have a place to call home," Tinney said. "Everything inside is modern, but there are reminders of the old hospital, such as pieces from the old chapel that have been used. I'm excited to be here and start seeing patients again."

An emergency room nurse, Tinney has been employed by Mercy since 2007.

"I worked on the oncology floor as a tech — helping with daily living activities, taking patients' vital signs ... whatever the nurses needed," she said. "We were at my brother's high-school graduation (the afternoon of the tornado). My dad is the Newton County ambulance director and as we rushed home, we heard that St. John's had been hit. I tried to get to work that day but never made it. I was stationed at Memorial Hall the next day in a temporary unit set up there."

The following year, she and other staff members moved to the Walden Building, an interim location that served Mercy's patients until the new hospital was completed. She continued working as a tech and then in a secretarial position while working on her bachelor's.

"I found my passion for nursing at Missouri Southern and made some lasting relationships," said Tinney. "There were moments that were tough, but we're taking care of people's lives. They made sure we know our stuff."

That's the primary mission for the program, said Dr. Lynn Korvick, director of nursing. Graduates of MSSU can be found on staff at Mercy and at Joplin's Freeman Health System.

"Joplin-area hospitals are a lifeline for the MSSU nursing program. We are partners in providing excellent clinical learning opportunities for our students, who will one day be graduates," Korvick said. "And as such, many seek employ-

ment at the facility where they had the most positive experience."

## Helicopters land at Missouri Southern

Students in Southern's Advanced Paramedic Skills course observed a demonstration of how to establish a helicopter landing zone on March 2 west of the Julio S. León Health Sciences Center.

"Part of the requirement from our accrediting body is that we train our paramedics and EMTs on how to establish a landing zone for helicopters and how to behave in and around them," said Thad Torix, EMS instructor and clinical coordinator.

The event allowed EMS students to meet with prospective employers and for emergency services personnel to learn about training opportunities offered at Southern.

Rod Pace with Air Methods Corporation presented a classroom lecture on creating and operating a landing zone in the Julio S. León Health Sciences Center. Aircraft from Medflight, EagleMed and Mercy Life Line then landed helicopters outside for the demonstration.

Students and the public viewed each of the aircraft and learned specifics about each of the programs. Representatives from METS Ambulance Service, the Joplin Fire Department, the Newton County Ambulance District and Cox Health EMS set up tables for an open house.

"We wanted to expose our students to potential employers, so we invited anyone who employs paramedics and EMTs," said Torix. "But we also wanted to open our doors to these services to show them the training we offer here." — Scott Meeker, '98, URM Communications Specialist



Katie Tinney, '14, works at the new Mercy Hospital that opened in March. Tinney has been employed by Mercy since 2007 and now serves as an emergency room nurse. — Photos by Curtis Almeyer, '13



On March 2, EMS students gather around the Mercy Life Line helicopter to observe a training demonstration.



# Lion Tales

By Bethany Courtney, '16

*"I've surrounded myself with very smart people and very good people."*

Jack Joseph (J.J.) Spurlin

*Missouri Southern State University 1990 alumnus, associate professor of criminal justice, and owner of JJ's Woodfire Pizza*

J.J. Spurlin, '90, (left), associate professor of criminal justice and owner of JJ's Woodfire Pizza in Webb City, Missouri, removes a pizza from the brick oven used at the restaurant. JJ's employs Missouri Southern students, who the owner credits with helping the business succeed.  
— Photo by Rhonda Clark, '00



JACK JOSEPH (J.J.) SPURLIN

**Who:** Missouri Southern alumnus, bachelor's in criminal justice, 1990.

**What:** Owner of JJ's Woodfire Pizza

**How the business got started:** I have always been motivated by money and the business side of criminal justice. It's something that I always wanted to do. I put together a plan with my parents and 10 college kids and that's how JJ's was born. Surely, it was a series of the right timing and some accidents that went horribly right. We've been open for three years and it's going great.

**Secret to Success:** I've surrounded myself with very smart people and very good people. The fact that my mom and dad are involved so much and my family's involvement has really been the key to my success. All of our staff is college-aged kids. They are very involved with the business, and we share a lot with them to help them gain experience.

**Greatest Challenge:** The greatest challenge of starting a business is how much licensing, inspections and up front work needs to be in place to open a restaurant. MSSU's Small Business & Technology Development Centers was a great resource, and they told me that it would be a lot of work, but I still underestimated the level of work it took to open a restaurant. I'd say the biggest difficulty right now is trying to keep cutting-edge and generate revenue as more business comes to this area. You have to have something really good to make people want to spend what little money they have right now or just a good plan. Trying to stay ahead of the competition is what poses the challenge, but it's a challenge that I love.

**Advice:** If you want to open a restaurant, you need to have the desire to do it. It takes a lot more than just a great recipe. I've taken chances and been able to put my own flare on things.

**Southern Memories:** The criminal justice program is how I found my way back to Southern. I knew it was a great program. I also enjoyed having my dad as a criminal justice professor here at Southern and getting to spend time with him.

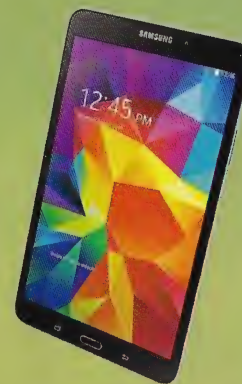
**For more:** Visit [www.jjspizzajoplin.com](http://www.jjspizzajoplin.com) or find us on **Facebook** and **Twitter**

*Have an entrepreneurial tale to tell? Send Lion Tales info to [Alumni.Assoc@mssu.edu](mailto:Alumni.Assoc@mssu.edu) or call 417-659-LION.*



# Roary Reads **crossroads** Do You?

Take our MoSo trivia challenge and you just might qualify to win a Samsung Galaxy Tab4. Then, you can take us wherever you go!



*Question: What year did **crossroads** transition from being a student magazine to the alumni magazine?*

If more than one entry with the correct answer is submitted, a drawing will determine the winner (previous winners cannot enter the spring contest).

To enter, please submit your answer by July 1, 2015, to:

**AlumniAssoc@mssu.edu**

Hints can be found in the online edition of **crossroads** at  
**[www.mssu.edu/crossroads](http://www.mssu.edu/crossroads)**

Fall 2014 Samsung Galaxy Tab4 winner: Linda Coop, '67



# LION LIFE



Alumni enjoy winter and spring activities.



Above left, Cameo Harrington, '96, and Director of Career Services Nicole Brown assist senior Michael Maddock with selections at February's Dress for Success, an event co-sponsored by the Alumni Association to help students select from donated clothing to obtain a cost-free outfit for the job market. Above right, Carol Spriggs, '83, helps senior Tiffani Nelson with accessories for her professional outfit. — Photos by Molly Schons, '15



Far left, the first Southern Social was held April 7 in the Connor Ballroom. The event, which raised funds for scholarships, included a fashion show, had 176 in attendance. Left, Gwen Hunt and Carmen (Campbell) Wilke, '84, visit at the Southern Social. Tables were decorated in themes, and an auction of select items was also part of the evening's events. After this year's success, Southern Social looks to become an annual event. — Photos by Curtis Almeter, '13



Above left, Ashley Eriksen, '12, looks at a book for sale at the Christmas Boutique sponsored by the Alumni Association in December. Above center, Karen Buchanan, '62, enjoys a cup of cider at the boutique. — Photos by Molly Schons, '15 Above, future Lions join in a game at Legacy Day in November. — Photo by Meagan Adams, '08 Left, Alumni Director Lee Elliff Pound, '86, and Jordan Baker, senior student worker for the Alumni Association, assist Child Development Center youths who came to the Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center for some Christmas fun in December. — Photos by Curtis Almeter, '13



## LIONLOVE

Ben, '08, and Kiley (Aasby) Crowe were married on September 13, 2014.



## FUTURELIONS

Jake, '07, and Rachel Heisten welcomed June Christen on October 14, 2014.

Blake, '02, and Natalie Bard welcomed Bristyn Paige on November 4, 2014. She joins big brother, Ayden Blake, and big sister, Brinkley Shae.

Grant Thompson, '14, and Kallie Thurlo welcomed Greyson Andrew on October 29, 2014.



Have something you want to share with your fellow alumni? Send us your information.

Missouri Southern Alumni Association  
3950 East Newman Road  
Joplin, MO 64801  
or via email, [AlumniAssoc@mssu.edu](mailto:AlumniAssoc@mssu.edu)

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 Follow us on twitter

## Trivia Answer

*Crossroads* began as a yearbook in 1939. The yearbook converted to a student magazine, *Crossroads: The Magazine*, in fall 1993. The first issue of *crossroads* as the alumni magazine premiered in fall 2006, and it has consistently been published each spring and fall semester since spring 2009. Submit your winning answer via email to: [AlumniAssoc@mssu.edu](mailto:AlumniAssoc@mssu.edu)

## CLASSNOTES

## 1970s

**Vicki (Steere) Nelson**, '77, graduated with Missouri Southern's first dental hygiene class and is a hygienist in Hutchinson, Kansas.

**Harry Berry**, '78, was re-elected to a fourth term as judge-executive in Hardin County, Kentucky. He was first elected in 2003.

**Ken Godfrey**, '78, was recognized by Jasper (Missouri) High School with his name placed on a multipurposes FEMA gymnasium in his honor.

## 1980s

**Angela (Adamo) Comstock**, '81, is an occupational therapist and owner of Living Water OT in Joplin, Missouri.

**Theresa (Houlihan) Block**, '82, is director corporate environmental affairs at Leggett & Platt Inc. in Carthage, Missouri.

**Kayla (Hoffman) Pekarek**, '84, is marketing coordinator for Adelmo Family Care in Joplin.

**Julia Fahrig**, '86, has retired from teaching in northern New York state but continues to substitute teach and remains active as a member of the New York State Retired Teachers. Julia holds a master's in education and counseling and human development from St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York.

**JoAnn (Hollis) Graffam**, '87, was named senior director of donor engagement for Wichita State University in Wichita, Kansas.

**Roger A. Johnson**, '87, was named 2015 Lawyer of the Year by Best Lawyers.

## 1990s

**Patti Steere**, '90, is a perfusionist at Mercy Hospital in Joplin, Missouri.

**Michelle (Mitchell) Fichtner**, '91, is a physical therapist/athletic trainer for Freeman Rehabilitation and Sports Center in Joplin, Missouri. She is married to Darren Fichtner and they own DM Landscaping. They have four daughters.

**Dr. Brad Hodson**, '91, is the executive vice president of Missouri Southern State University and executive director of the Missouri Southern Foundation.

**Stephanie (Lyons) Willis**, '94, is a real estate agent for Realty Executives Tri State in Joplin, Missouri. She and her husband, Dominic, form the "Willis Team."

**Matthew "Scott" Donaldson**, '96, is the assistant vice president of student affairs

and director of recruiting at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College in Miami, Oklahoma.

**Phill Johnson**, '98, has accepted the position of dean at Auburn University in Alabama. He will begin this new venture in February 2015.

## 2000s

**Karisa Boyer**, '01, a science teacher at Joplin High School, was a finalist for the Missouri Teacher of the Year award.

**Suzanne McCulley**, '01, is the assembly manager at H.E. Williams Inc. in Carthage, Missouri.

**Jennifer Tyler**, '01, is associate director of development for the University of Florida College of Health and Human Performance in Gainesville, Florida.

**Jason Northern**, '02, is the senior development officer at Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla, Missouri.

**Karen Wade**, '08, is an adjunct professor at Crowder College and earned her master of library science from Emporia State University in December 2014.

**Evan Jewsbury**, '09, is the human resources director at Missouri Southern State University.

**Attila Okner**, '09, is the chief operating officer at Innovative Objects in Joplin, Missouri.

## 2010s

**Heather (Walton) Webb**, '11, is the environmental director for Miami Nation Environmental in Miami, Oklahoma.

**Nicole Nelson**, '11, is a second-generation dental hygienist who is practicing in California.

**Dominic Willis**, '11, is a bookkeeper at Auto Insurance Express and works as a real estate agent with his wife, Stephanie Willis, '94.

**Sara Cavener**, '13, is the assistant store manager of the Follett Higher Education Group-University of West Florida Bookstore in Pensacola, Florida.

**Meagan (Terry) Spangler**, '13, is the public relations director for the Neosho R-5 School District in Neosho, Missouri.

**Mallory Fuller**, '14, is a staff tax accountant II at Leggett & Platt Inc. in Carthage, Missouri.

**Natasha Ohmart**, '14, is a first grade teacher for Concordia R-2 Schools in Concordia, Missouri

**Cornelius "Casey" Zipp**, '14, is working in IT sales in Chicago, Illinois.

— Reports from MSSU Alumni Association office



## INMEMORIAM

### JOPLIN JUNIOR COLLEGE

**James M. Longan**  
October 4, 2014  
**Dorothy M. Peters**  
October 18, 2014  
**Emory D. Schaefer**  
November 1, 2014  
**Julius J. Rosewicz**  
November 14, 2014  
**Jerry D. Cobble**  
December 6, 2014  
**William C. Troutman**  
December 15, 2014  
**Dr. George E. Fay**  
January 8, 2015  
**Laurence H. Flanigan**  
February 9, 2015

### MISSOURI SOUTHERN

**Michael J. Mitchell**  
October 9, 2014  
**John B. Korn**  
October 21, 2014  
**Patricia Lynn Shaw-Schneller**  
October 24, 2014  
**Shirley A. Wright**  
November 2, 2014  
**Karen (Porpoth) Sisco**  
January 13, 2015

**Bobbie J. Campbell**  
January 17, 2015

1940s  
**Cleo Lucille Wadkins, '41**  
January 28, 2015  
**Hon. George Flanigan, '43**  
December 23, 2014

1950s  
**Joanna E. (Mathiews) Green, '54**  
September 14, 2014  
**Robert Bolen, '50**  
November 29, 2014

1960s  
**Steven C. Sandy, '62**  
September 14, 2014

1970s  
**Tom Sandtorf, '71**  
January 14, 2015  
**James L. Cullum, '71**  
October 4, 2014  
**Rebecca J. Cunningham, '73**  
September 15, 2014  
**Edith "Edie" Nicholson, '75**  
October 27, 2014

**John P. (Johnson) McCoy, '77**  
January 16, 2015

1980s  
**Lee Anne (Fairchild) Sweezy, '80**  
January 29, 2015  
**Norma J. Carlin, '81**  
February 8, 2015  
**David E. Percy, '87**  
November 26, 2014

1990s  
**Steve J. Phelps, '93**  
December 1, 2014  
**Teresa L. Byrd, '94**  
October 15, 2014  
**Stephanie A. (Luganbell) Kerby, '95**  
October 2, 2014  
**Kristopher M. Ralston, '99**  
January 25, 2015

2000s  
**Mitchell L. Christy, '01**  
September 27, 2014

2010s  
**Harold D. Denham, '13**  
October 24, 2014

# Southern remembers friends, faculty, staff

### FRIENDS OF SOUTHERN

**Edwin Gene Denham**, 82, died August 20, 2014, in Joplin, Missouri. He was born May 18, 1932, to Edwin and Pearl Denham. They lived in Branson, Missouri, before moving to Joplin. Gene attended Joplin schools and graduated in 1949. In 1952, he married Virginia Quigg before leaving for the U.S. Air Force. After basic training, they settled in Denver, Colorado, where Gene was stationed at Lowry Air Force Base. After his tour of duty, Gene attended the University of Missouri, obtaining a Bachelor of Science in accounting. After working in Jefferson City, Missouri, and Fayetteville, Arkansas, he was transferred to Joplin and was made partner in the firm later to be known as Myers, Baker, Rife and Denham, where he worked for 43 years. Gene was member and president of the Southwest Chapter of the Missouri Society of Certified Public Accountants, member and president of the Board of Directors of the Missouri Society of Certified Public Accountants, and member and past president of the Missouri State Board of Accountancy. He served on the board of Oak Hill Hospital and Freeman Hospital. He was a member of the Joplin Kiwanis Club,

the Roughneck Club and the Elks Club. He was a Lionbacker and loved the basketball games and the spirit band. Gene served on the Board of Directors of Cerebral Palsy of Tri-County for over 40 years, was treasurer of the Kiwanis Club for several years, and was on the Board of Directors of the Joplin Public Library. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Joplin. Survivors include his wife, two daughters, a son and five grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents.

**Anthony Ralph Kassab**, 88, died November 25, 2014, in Joplin, Missouri. He was born July 24, 1926, in Joplin to Ralph and Lillian Kassab. He graduated in 1944 from Joplin High School and then trained with the U.S. Army Air Corps as a bomber crewman. He was discharged at the end of World War II. After attending Joplin Junior College, he enrolled at Missouri University and joined the Sigma Nu Fraternity. After graduation, he joined his brother, Leon Kassab, in the family business "Kassab," a business on Joplin's Main Street for 92 years. Anthony was involved in several civic organizations, including Rotary Club, director of United Missouri Bank, and on the Board of Regents

at MSSU. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Maridan, four daughters, and 12 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and a daughter, brother and sister.

**Kenneth (Kenny) James Royer** died December 27, 2014. He was born on April 24, 1939, in Carthage, Missouri, to Harold Aquilla Royer and Ella Faye (Baumann) Royer and was the eldest of five children. His family moved to Joplin and he attended Joplin schools and graduated in 1957. He married Karen Lee Bagby on December 3, 1976, in Miami, Oklahoma. Kenny worked as a caddy and then progressed to the pro shop at Twin Hills Country Club in Joplin, where he learned to play and love the game of golf. He worked for TAMKO, Medlin Tire and Bandag G&H in Springdale, until he and his wife, Karen opened Royer Tire Service on April 1, 1977. He continued to work at Royer until his health forced him to retire in 2013. Kenny was an avid St. Louis Cardinals fan and a Lionbacker. He was a charter member of the Sunrise Optimist Club until it disbanded. He is survived by his wife, two sons, two daughters, seven grandchildren, and two great-



grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, a sister and two brothers.

#### FACULTY AND STAFF

**Linda Anne Parrish Henderson**, 64, died October 16, 2014, in Joplin, Missouri. She was born April 9, 1950, in Joplin, and lived in the Joplin area most of her life. She was a 1968 graduate of Cartersville High School and valedictorian of her class. She attended Missouri Southern State University and worked at MSSU for 35 years in the library. Linda was a member of the First Christian Church of Webb City. Survivors include a son, her mother, Tillie Parrish; two brothers, one sister, and two granddaughters. She was preceded in death by her father, Fred Parrish, and a brother.

**Francis "Joe" Sims** died October 24, 2014. He was born on August 29, 1922, and was a professor of music at Southwestern College, in Winfield, Kansas, and later at Missouri Southern State University, where he taught voice, choir and other music courses. Joe was active as a tenor soloist and as a church director of music. He received many honors as an educator. He served in the Navy during World War II and the Korean Conflict. He is survived by a sister, seven children, 11 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Ruth (Reschke) Sims; second wife, Erma (Oldham) Sims; a brother and a grandson.

**Don E. Plummer**, 85, died October 22, 2014, in Joplin, Missouri. He was born June 11, 1929, in rural Lawrence County, to Verlie Plummer and Bernice (Yant) Plummer. He graduated from Lockwood (Missouri) High School in 1947. He farmed the home place, worked at Goodman Church Builders, and worked at MSSU for over 15 years, retiring in 1992 as head of maintenance. He served in the Army during the Korean War and was a member of The American Legion Post 588, Red Oak. He was a sports fan and big supporter of the MSSU Lions, Chicago Bears and L.A. Dodgers. He was preceded in death by his parents and two sisters. He is survived by numerous nephews, nieces and other family and friends.

**Dr. Betty J. Ipock**, 84, died December 29, 2014, in Grove, Oklahoma. Betty was born on August 15, 1930, in Clinton, Missouri, to Alfred E. and Beryl (Starks) Dickman. She attended high school in Marshfield, Missouri and earned a diploma in nursing from St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing in

Kansas City, Missouri, then later a bachelor's in nursing from Drury College, Springfield, Missouri; a master's in psychiatric nursing from the University of Oklahoma; and a doctorate in nursing and psychology from Oklahoma State University. She was director of nursing at Carlsbad Memorial Hospital, Carlsbad, New Mexico, before marrying Curtis L. Ipock in December of 1951 and moving to Oklahoma. Betty was a nursing supervisor at Miami Baptist Hospital in Miami, Oklahoma; established and ran Moccasin Bend Ranch in Miami; served on the staff at Lafayette House in Joplin, Missouri; taught nursing at NEO A&M College in Miami; served as director of the department of nursing at Missouri Southern State University, and taught nursing at Crowder College in Neosho and for Northeast Area Vo-Tech School. Betty established the Court Appointed Special Advocates Program for the 13th Judicial District. She volunteered at the Christian Medical Clinic, ran a mass immunization clinic for Homeland Security and worked for FEMA counseling flood survivors in the Miami, Oklahoma, area. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband and two brothers. She is survived by three sons; five grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren.

**Margaret Ann Jeffcott**, 87, Neosho, Missouri, died January 17, 2015, after an extended illness. She was born April 9, 1927, in Joplin, Missouri. She married Truman Jeffcott on July 2, 1949. He preceded her in death in 2010. She is also preceded in death by a brother. Margaret Ann graduated from SMS in 1949 and later earned a master's in education from Pittsburg State. She began her teaching career in Webb City, Missouri, and in 1955, was employed by Joplin Junior College as an instructor of girl's physical education. She became the first supervisor of elementary PE for the Joplin School District, a position she held for 27 years. She was also instrumental in promoting the Special Olympics program for students. She was a member of the Neosho First Christian Church. Margaret is survived by three daughters, one son, eight grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

**Dr. Alfred R. Cade**, dean of the Missouri Southern School of Education, died February 21, 2015. Born July 15, 1960, in Kansas City, Missouri, he would go on to pursue two of his life's passions following high school — education and football. Al received

a bachelor's in education (health and physical education) in 1983 and a master's in education (health and physical education) in 1985, both from Northwest Missouri State University. He completed his doctorate of education in 2001 from St. Louis University. He joined Southern in 1984 as a physical education instructor and assistant football coach. In 1993, he returned to Northwest as a physical education instructor and a year later began teaching at Minnesota State University-Mankato. He returned to Southern in 1996 as assistant to the dean of the school of education. He served as chair of the department of teacher education from 2005-12, when he was appointed interim dean and then dean of the school of education. He was faculty adviser for the Southern IMPACT program and helped develop the campus' diversity committee, which sponsors the annual Martin Luther King Day of Service. He served on the Missouri Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, Missouri Advisory Council of Certification for Educators, and was vice president and president for the Missouri Association for Blacks in Higher Education for seven years. In Joplin, he served on boards with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Southwest Missouri, the Joplin Human Rights Commission and Schools & Community Facilities Committee, the Miracle League of Joplin, and the Southwest Center for Educational Excellence, and the annual George Washington Carver Art and Essay Contest, which the university co-sponsored with the Carver Birthplace Association. He was also involved with the Joplin Area Special Olympics, Joplin Chamber of Commerce Golden Apple Teacher Award Selection Committee and the Langston Hughes Celebration Committee. In 2013, he received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Northwest, where he was also inducted into the Northwest Athletic Hall of Fame in 2003. In 2014, he was elected to the executive board for the Missouri Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, as well as vice-chairman for the Missouri Council of Education Deans. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy, and children Christopher and Keisha Smith; his mother, Marie Cade; and five grandchildren Brant Smith, Alyssa Smith, Destini Smith, Christopher Smith, and Jalynn Smith-Ward. He was preceded in death by his father, Alfred Cade.

— In memoriam current as of February 23, 2015



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Missouri Southern State University  
3950 E. Newman Road  
Joplin, MO 64801

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# SAVE THE DATE



Missouri Southern's Homecoming, October 23 - 24, 2015

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**crossroads**

— MSSU Alumni Publication, Spring 2015